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MAY 1948

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FOR THE EXPERIMENTER & RADIO ENTHUSIAST

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6D.

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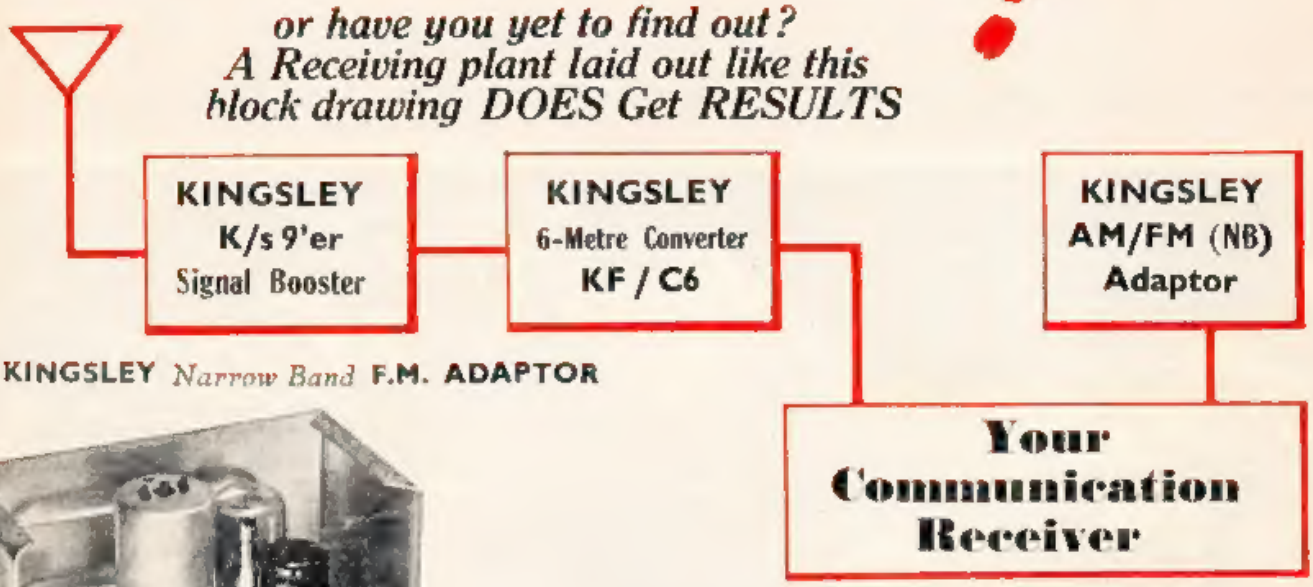

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EDITORIAL

★

In this month's Federal Notes you will find a brief resume of the activities at the Federal Convention where the few did so much for so many. Whether the many will approve of the work performed by the few remains to be seen.

One of the major tasks allotted to Federal Executive for the forthcoming year is that of preparing a "Uniform Divisional Constitution." This is going to be a gigantic task as it is necessary to take into consideration both the wide variations in Companies Act in each State, and the diversity of existing Divisional Constitutions. One thing stands out very clearly, before a uniform divisional constitution can be agreed upon each and every division will have to make generous concessions.

Unfortunately we are living in a world filled with suspicion and motivated by selfishness; hence we are all biassed by our environment and find it difficult to believe that the other fellow is actuated by honest motives.

It is obvious that before true Federation can exist members will have to delegate sufficient discretionary powers to Divisional Councillors, Federal Councillors and Federal Executive to make any scheme workable.

The present basis under which executives of the Institute are fettered and hampered by the cumbersome process of securing approval step by step from members generally is both unsound and unworkable. It is not suggested for one moment that you as a member give anyone a blank cheque; but rather that everything be viewed in its correct perspective. If you have sufficient faith in your own judgement in electing the right men, then surely you can trust those men to perform the task faithfully during their term of office.

The other stumbling block which must be removed to make way for Federation is "Interstate Jealousy." The continual fear by one State that another will encroach upon its precious preserves. This outlook reeks of medieval times when Barons were wicked old gentlemen who lived in castles surrounded by watery moats, and does not in any way fit in with the radio picture wherein is envisaged, upon a broad canvas, the complete elimination of boundaries, prejudices and racial differences, based upon the better understanding promoted by the penetration of the common interests of Hamdom into the far corners of the earth.

The moral of this story is — can we rise far enough above our present environment and past prejudices to make FEDERATION a concrete fact instead of an idealistic dream. The ball is in your corner!

G.G.

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SERIES PHASED AERIAL ARRAYS

By H. K. LOVE*, VK3KU

So much has been written on the subject of Directive Arrays, that one hesitates to step into this field unless it is to offer a summary of experience which may clear up some of the confusion which exists. An examination of the published data on Parasitic Arrays, for example, shows a great variety of claims for gain above a dipole. Some of these claims are fantastic, and some conservative.

The important feature from the Amateur's point of view is that all types of Parasitic Beams work in some fashion. It is feared that some of the information on this type of beam has its genesis in unbounded enthusiasm, brought about by the fact that the author has been fortunate; his location and all the other factors have been favourable, and his results excellent. We all fall into this trap at some time or another—it is the "Ham" in us!

It is no wonder, then, that when results are not as good as we expect, some of us are disappointed. The reason can, as a rule, be traced down to some unfavourable factors which were not present in the enthusiastic author's case.

There are a number of factors which govern the operation of Parasitic Arrays —some of them are as follows:—

(a) Location.
(b) Height above ground.
(c) Nature and proximity of surrounding objects.
(d) The ability to accurately tune the array.
(e) The method of feeding.

Some very interesting and accurate engineering data on the subject of Parasitic Arrays is found in the Radio Engineer's Handbook (Terman) beginning on page 809, para. 17.

In the main, this paragraph deals with a simple driven element, and a Director or Reflector. Examination of the figures on page 810 will reveal just how slight changes in tuning or spacing will affect the pattern.

After reading this data the Amateur will begin to look around his location and count the tin roofs and other obstructions in an endeavour to learn what chance he has of getting out in the right direction, if the antenna is pointing in that direction.

All this wordy preamble is to indicate that what the other fellow has done with a 2, 3 or 4 element beam of the parasitic variety, cannot always be repeated in another location. One may still persist and do a very nice job on such an array, but there is always the feeling that with a little more tuning and adjustment, better results **might** be obtained. One cannot help wondering if those non-driven elements are doing their stuff!

*Virginia Street, Mt. Waverley, Victoria.

It is for the above reasons that the writer suggests an all-driven array for Amateur work—it cuts out a good part of the big doubt.

In the case of a long wire of several wave lengths, there is little concern by most users that the power may not be traversing all the half wave lengths included in its length—this is not one of the worries, as it well may be in the case of a multi-parasitic array.

THE MARCONI FRANKLIN SERIES PHASED ARRAY†

Such is the full name of the beam about to be described. If one took a huge loop of wire, say a wave length or so long, set it out in a circle and fed both ends from the transmitter tank, provided it was resonant and drew current, there would be little fear in the mind of the operator that the r.f. was not in all parts of the wire, because the whole loop is in series.

It is not, however, convenient to mount and erect such a contraption, but the series characteristic can be retained by another method.

†"Short Wave Wireless Communication" by Ladner & Stoner.

Keeping the series idea in mind as the first fundamental, let us add some other desirable features as under:—

(a) Compactness.
(b) Flatness of tuning on the Ham bands.
(c) No critical tuning.
(d) Substantial gain.
(e) No adjustment, and easy to feed.
(f) Correct phasing to achieve directivity.
(g) **All** elements in series, and therefore all excited.

These features—(a) to (g)—are the story of the Series Phased Beam as applied to Amateur practice.

The following quotation, extracted from Messrs. Ladner & Stoner's "Short Wave Wireless Communication" will start one thinking on this type of array:

"In its simplest form the series-phase consists of a wire folded into a number of loops connected by horizontal wire lengths as shown in Fig. 132, suspended either vertically or horizontally, the

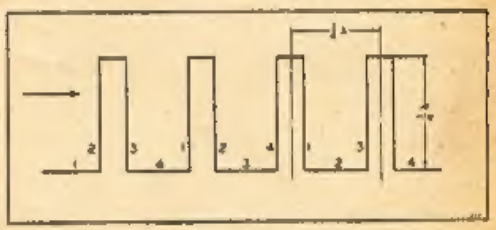
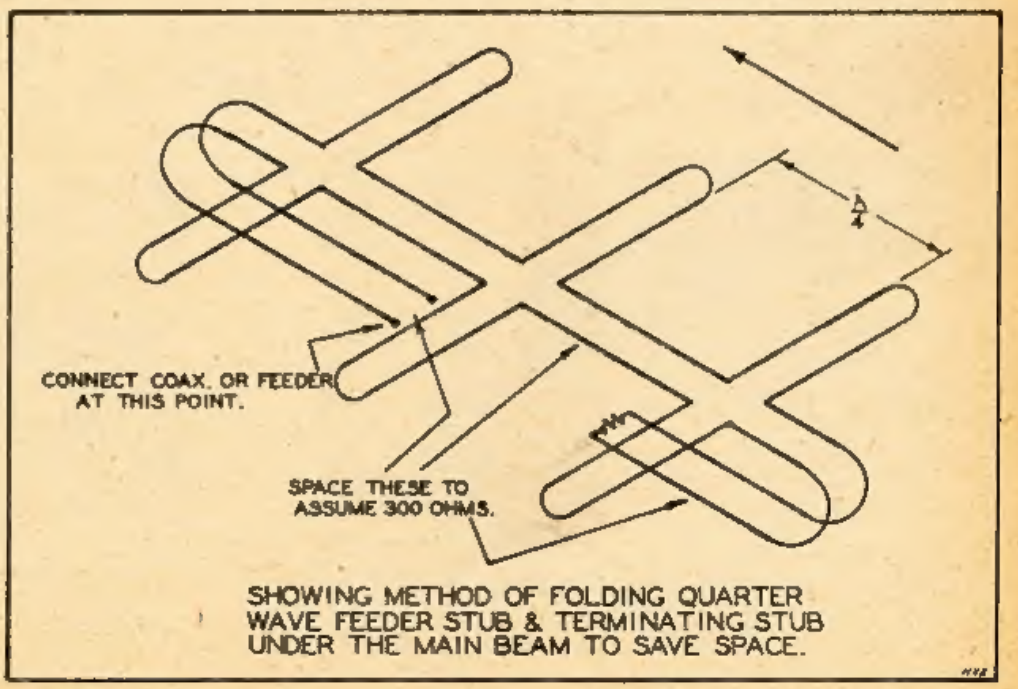


Figure 132

dimensions of the loops and the spacing being dependent upon the type of diagram required. In general, the most commonly adopted arrays are made with loops approximately one-quarter wave-



SHOWING METHOD OF FOLDING QUARTER WAVE FEEDER STUB & TERMINATING STUB UNDER THE MAIN BEAM TO SAVE SPACE.

length long spaced a similar amount, the length of the array line being dependent upon the directivity desired. An array line will be fed from one end, usually through a short length of non-radiating feeder coupled to a normal concentric tube main feeder, the remote end of the array generally being terminated by a resistance equal to the characteristic resistance of the system, which approximates to 300 ohms.

"As will be seen later, the loops perform two separate functions; to act as radiators, and what is as important, to determine the time phase of current between loops.

"Consider an earthed vertical single wire aerial. When excited from the base, a stationary wave is formed, by a wave W_1 travelling up the wire, and a similar reflected wave W_2 travelling back. We could imagine wave W_1 travelling up the left hand edge of the wire, and the same travelling wave returning down the right hand edge of the wire, and because at all intervals of time the instantaneous values of the current waves I_1 and I_2 at the top are equal but opposite in direction, they form a node of current here.

"At other points down the wire the instantaneous amplitude of I_1 and I_2 are not always equal, and if their values are traced out in time they will be found to form a stationary wave with current antinode at the base when the wire is one-quarter wave length long. However short or long this wire may be, a stationary wave will be formed by these two travelling waves with a node of current at the top end and current value at the bottom appropriate to the length of wire. Accompanying the current stationary wave is a voltage wave in quadrature time phase with it and with an antinode at the top end.

"If instead of providing a single wire we provide a loop of wire, Fig. 133, fed at the lower end, 'A' say, this loop being part of a circuit in which a travelling wave is flowing, the wave will now travel up one wire 'AB' and return by the second 'BC' from which it continues on in the circuit, but provided these wires are sufficiently close together to be regarded as coincident in space from a radiation point of view, the loop may

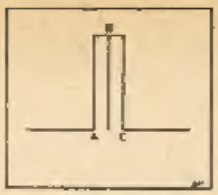


Figure 133

be regarded exactly as a single wire carrying a stationary wave with current node at 'B.' These two travelling waves not only form a stationary wave of current with node at top end and (if the loop is $\frac{1}{4}\lambda$ or less) an antinode at the bottom end, but in quadrature time-phase with the effective current stationary wave there will be a voltage stationary wave, having an antinode at the top end and a node at the bottom end. The voltage does not reverse in sense at the top, and in consequence, no node is produced, whilst at the bottom of the loop the voltages are always equal but opposite in phase.

"The radiation resistance of the loop will be four times the radiation resistance of a single wire for the same base current measurement in each case. This is so because a meter placed at the base of one limb of the loop is measuring current in one limb only, and this is half the effective stationary wave current at the base, as the currents add to this point. This means virtually that the effective height, and in consequence the radiation efficiency of this portion of such a system is high. For this reason, an array built with loop radiators is equally suitable both for transmission and for reception purposes."

Messrs. Ladner & Stoner deal, in the main, with the "Series Phase" as a commercial curtain, and cover the maths. and theory considerations fully. It is the purpose of this article to summarize the application of this system to Amateur use. At VK3KU the beams for 28, 50 and 144 Mc. are all series phase, and on 28 and 50 Mc. have done a wonderful job. It should be remembered that no tuning or adjustment has been done on these beams—they simply work!

It will be seen that Fig. 132, ex Ladner & Stoner, forms the basis of construction of Fig. 1—the Amateur application for 28 Mc.

The beam construction for Amateur use is two beams mounted horizontally —see Fig. 1.

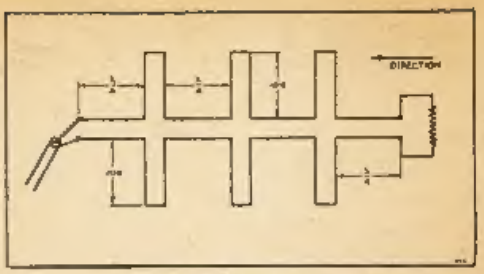


Figure 1

As the loops on each side of the beam represent a $\frac{1}{4}$ wave out and $\frac{1}{4}$ wave back, each loop is $\frac{1}{2}$ wave length, and this, added to the corresponding loop on the opposite side, makes each element a folded full wave. Since all loops are in series, each is excited.

The loops, therefore, perform **two separate functions;** to act as radiators, and what is quite as important, to determine the time phase of current between loops.

A further extract from Ladner & Stoner will make this clear:—

"Consider Fig. 134 (a), which shows two radiators 1 and 2 spaced one quarter wave length apart and connected by a feeder line. If this system is fed from a point 'A,' half-way between the aerials, zero time phase is supplied to both aerials, but if we move the feed point to 'B,' this automatically creates a time phase difference between 1 and

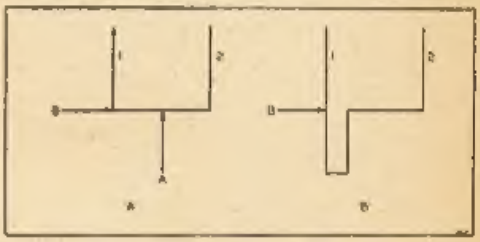
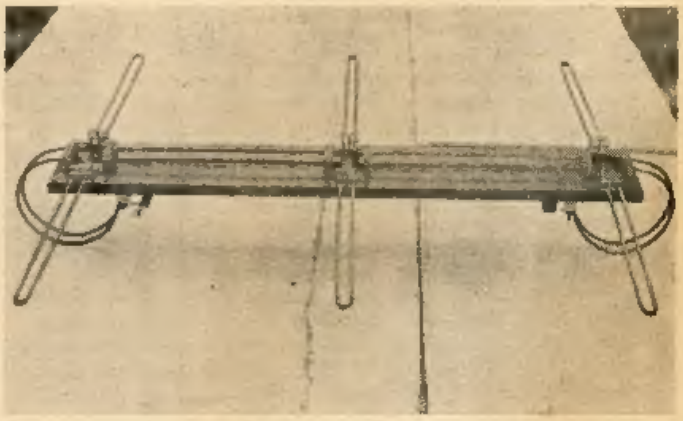


Figure 134

2, equal to the space phase between them, assuming the radiated wave travels to the right at the same velocity as the wave along the feeder. In this case maximum directivity is away from the feed point 'B.'

"Still keeping the feed input at 'B,' we can reverse the diagram by looping the feeder to give aerial 2 a lagging



Above: Complete Series Phased Three Element Beam for 144 Mc. showing Stubs turned under.

At left: Terminating Stub on 144 Mc. Series Phased Beam.

current of 90°. To do this the feeder length can be increased as shown in Fig. 134 (b), such that it equals (360° — 90°) or $\frac{3}{4}\lambda$. If we design the loop to have $\frac{1}{4}\lambda$ sides as shown, this loop, together with the straight portion of $\frac{1}{4}\lambda$, makes up the $\frac{3}{4}\lambda$, and as we have seen, if the sides of the loop are coincident in space, the loop itself will act as a radiator; in consequence, we can use it not only as a phasing feeder to aerial No. 2, but to replace aerial 1. In a similar way the whole line of radiators can be replaced by loops, whose lengths are made correct to produce the required phasing between the radiating elements. This is the usual series-phase array design which therefore has maximum directivity from its feed end, and it is clear that with this particular spacing we could not **reduce** the dimensions of the loops sufficiently to reverse the diagram, i.e., by producing a time phase equal to the space phase as the loops would then have zero dimensions.

"But we can obtain this reversal by **increasing** the loop still more, namely to $\frac{5}{4}\lambda$, as in this case the total feed length is then $1\frac{1}{4}\lambda$, and this gives the required time phase."

It is not intended, here, to go further into the theory of this type of array, as Messrs. Ladner & Stoner have treated this at great length. It is therefore intended to give some pointers on the construction of a Series Phased Array for the practical Amateur bands.

The beam is practicable on the 14, 21, 28, 50 and 144 Mc. bands. The dimensions are easy to compute by any formula for $\frac{1}{4}$ wavelength. It has been found that the beam is very suitable to work over quite wide areas of the bands, with little loss of efficiency, and on this account the intending user is advised to cut the $\frac{1}{4}$ wave sections for a frequency at the centre of his operating frequencies. The $\frac{1}{4}$ wave stubs for feeding and termination can be folded back under the framework of the beam, and accordingly do not add to the length of the structure. The $\frac{1}{4}$ wave feeder is made up of open line, with spacing and conductor diameter to make a 300 ohm line. This can be done with tubing or with wire, provided the spacing is suitably adjusted to 300 ohms.

The loops or elements are best made of $\frac{3}{4}$" tubing, or can be wires folded back round insulators if desired.

It will be seen that for 14 Mc. a two element beam is not by any means too big. Such a two element affair will have

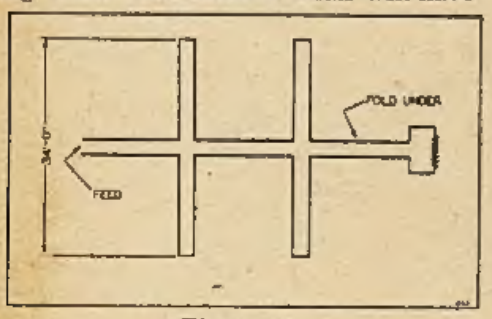


Figure 2

four driven $\frac{1}{2}$ waves and will occupy approx. 34' x 17' 6" (Fig. 2). A three element for 28 Mc. (6 half waves) will take a space of about 17' x 16'.

The method of mounting the elements on a wooden frame, whether it be a tubing structure or wire, is left to the intending user.

The spacing between centres of the folded back tubes or wire should be quite close; in the case of tube, a space not in excess of $\frac{1}{4}$" between the adjacent walls will be about right. If wire is used, a space of approx. $\frac{1}{2}$" between centres of the wire will do well—but care should be exercised when the construction is designed that the wires are held apart and do not touch in a high wind. Liberal use of insulators or small spreaders should serve well to achieve this.

The Termination.—The beam may be left bi-directional if desired, or made uni-directional by a terminating resistor of 300 ohms of a non-inductive type.

The Beam In Use.—The feeder can be almost any type of line—open or co-ax.—and the feeder stub, which is 300 ohms $\frac{1}{4}$ wave, will take care of the matching to the array in much the same manner as Q bars. Should 300 ohm line or cable be available, this may be used right down to the transmitter tank.

Results obtained with this beam indicate that it does a first-class job. There are numbers of beams—the description of which, together with the theory and data, would tempt some of us to endeavour to use them, but unless one has the facilities to ensure perfection of the theory, it may be better to leave them alone.

When all is said and done, most of us are after R5 reports, and we also like something round the S9. With the limited power the Australians use, the S section of our reports must come from getting as much of the r.f. from the tank into the flat top as possible.

The improvement of our signal strength from, say, S6 by power increase can be expressed in the following terms: To raise an S6 signal to S6.5 requires that we multiply the power by two. To increase our signal by one S unit, i.e., 6 db. to S7, the power would need to be multiplied by four. One can go on doing sums like this to see how many times the power must be increased to gain the additional signal points, but it is the power that reaches the flat top which does the job.

If equipment is arranged with 100 watts input to give 60 watts output in the tank, all well and good, but if only 15 of the watts reach the radiator, we are not getting very far. What we all desire is the use of as much of that 60 watts as possible **in the radiator**—pushed in the desired direction—that of the receiving station.

TIPS FOR PRACTICAL CONSTRUCTION

It is strongly recomemnded that the beam be fabricated of $\frac{3}{4}$" copper tubing in the case of 28 Mc. beam, or $\frac{1}{2}$" copper tubing in the case of 50 Mc. beam.

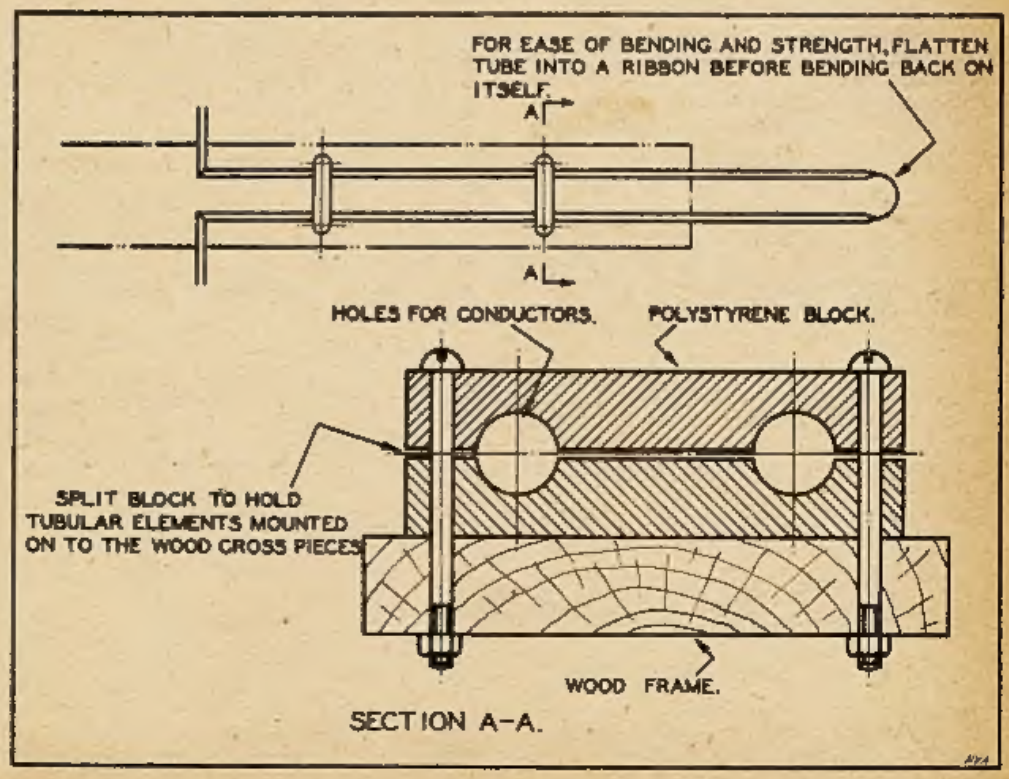
Reference should be made to "Amateur Radio," July, 1947, page 5, for the impedance versus spacing diameter curve for conductors to ensure that the quarter waves between the elements are arranged to assume an impedance of 300 ohms.

The folding back of each element which is a half wave folded back on itself, should be accomplished by hammering it flat at the centre point which makes an easy method of bending and strengthens the whole job, as instead of being a bent tube it is a ribbon of flat metal.

The builder is advised to braze the tubing into one solid grid to ensure that the beam is in complete electrical contact throughout its length.

The method of mounting is to make a

(Continued on page 8)



The BC696 and BC457 Transmitters

By F. M. NOLAN*, VK4FN

The BC696 and BC457 Transmitters can be very simply converted to make excellent v.f.o's. for the Amateur bands. Before commencing the description of the alterations necessary to convert for Ham use by VK4FN, the following description of the units is reprinted from "CQ," May 1946, to acquaint the reader with their operation.

An increasing amount of surplus Army equipment is appearing on the civilian market. Among various items of interest to the Radio Amateur is the SCR274N, an aircraft unit that is very easily adapted to Amateur use as a stable, variable-frequency oscillator (v.f.o.), either for a.m. or f.m. operation. The SCR274N is the overall designation given the principal components of a multi-channel aircraft radio receiving and transmitting set-up used on thousands of planes and now "declassified." So that the reader may know what to look for, the army numbers of the equipment are as follows:—

The receiving end consists of three separate units—the BC453 (190-550 Kc.), the BC454 (3 to 6 Mc.) and the BC455 (6 to 9.1 Mc.). These receivers operate from the aeroplane 24-28 volt storage battery and each contains a separate dynamotor for plate power. It is an easy matter to substitute 6 volt tubes for the 12 volt series type originally in the receiver, and re-wire the filament string for parallel 6.3 volt operation from a standard filament transformer. (Alternatively, a 24 volt transformer may be used to energise the heater circuits with the receiver left as is.) Any light 250 volt receiver power supply will provide plate power for the sets, or a vibrator pack may be used if mobile operation is contemplated. These receivers are very sensitive, incorporating an r.f. stage, b.f.o. for c.w. reception, and, all in all, make excellent receivers up to approximately 10 Mc.

Four separate transmitters are included in the sending unit. The BC696 covers 3 to 4 Mc., the BC457 from 4 to 5.3 Mc., the BC458 5.3 to 7 Mc., while the BC459 tunes from 7 to 9.1 Mc. Each transmitter consists of a master oscillator tube (1626 or 12J5) exciting a pair of beam tetrodes in the power amplifier stage (1625s or twelve volt 807s). The tubes in the amplifier are connected in parallel. The master oscillator and r.f. power amplifier tuning capacitors are ganged, and an excellent worm drive, with plenty of reduction, is incorporated in the dial system. Included in each transmitter is a piezo-electric crystal and an electronic resonance indicator for calibration.

The power output may be varied from a few watts to approximately 55 watts according to the power supply on hand. Thus, one of these little jobs may be used as a fixed variable-frequency transmitter or as a driver for a higher power amplifier.

The components are of exceptionally high quality and the assembly rigidly constructed. With a stabilised 200 volt supply to power the master oscillator, the drift is very small. This equipment was designed to hold the frequency quite constant in aircraft under vibration and extreme temperature changes; so it can be understood that the frequency variation will be practically nil with the set mounted on the operating table, subject to little vibration and relatively constant temperature.

A power supply, preferably a regulated 220 volt unit, is used to power the master oscillator—while anything from 200 to 550 volts, unregulated, is suitable for the amplifier, depending on the desired power output.

The dial is very closely calibrated and a crystal resonator is used to check the calibration. This is very simply observed by tuning for maximum indication on the electronic eye tube and then noting if the dial reads exactly the crystal frequency. The transmitter is then calibrated over the rest of the dial. This crystal does not stabilise the frequency in any way—it is merely a built-in standard to check the master oscillator dial setting. A crystal of another frequency could be substituted—for instance one spotting a particular pet or net operation frequency. This would enable the operator to place himself exactly on a particular frequency in the band.

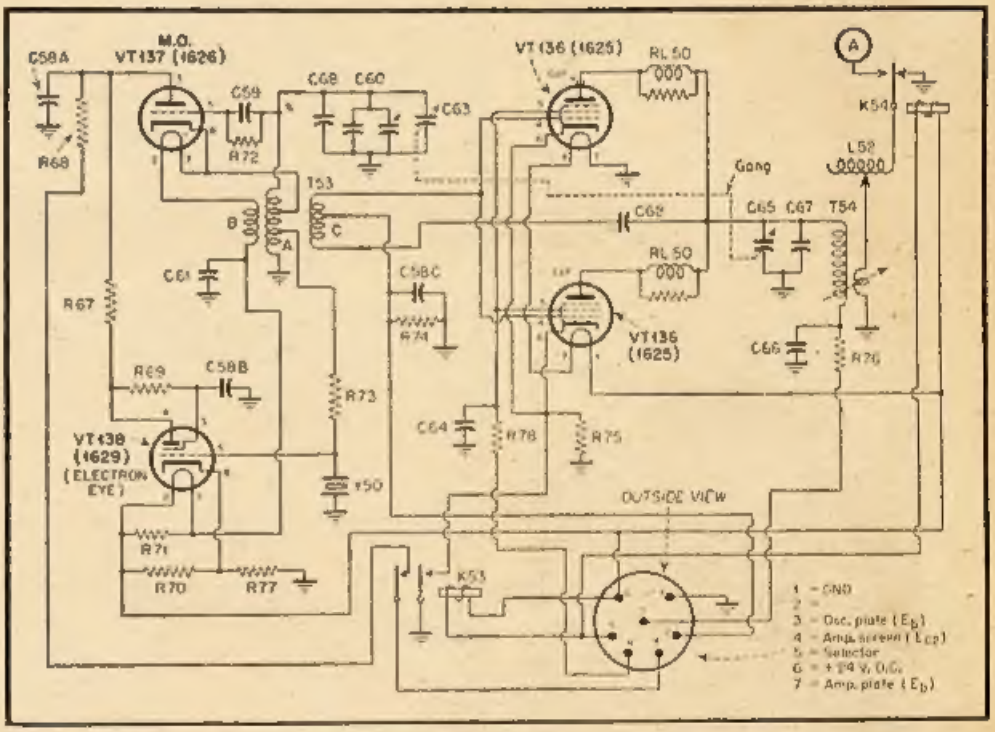


Fig. 1. Original schematic of the BC458 (5.3 to 7 Mc. with a bit of leeway). The following parts are identified:—

C58A, C58B, C58C—0.05 uF.
C59—0.00018 uF.
C60—master oscillator padding
C61—0.006 uF.
C62—fixed neutralising
C63—master oscillator tuning
C64—0.002 uF.
C65—power amplifier tuning
C66—0.01 uF.
C67—power amplifier padding
C68—3.0 pF.
C69—50 pF.
K53—transmitter selector relay
K54—transmitter output relay
L52—antenna loading coil
R67, R72, R75—51,000 ohms
R68, R76—20 ohms
R69—1 megohm
R70—1,000 ohms
R71—126 ohms
R73, R74—15,000 ohms
R77—390 ohms
R78—51 ohms
RL50—parasitic suppressors
T53—oscillator coils
T54—amplifier coils
Y50—crystal unit
7-prong female plug, outside view.

* "Fran-Reen," Dawn Street, Stafford Heights, Queensland.

RE-WIRING TO USE AS V.F.O.

A number of members have procured either the BC696 or BC457 Transmitters from Disposals, and desire to use them for v.f.o. operation and it is proposed here to outline the steps taken by the writer to put them in operation as v.f.o. units.

Being fortunate enough to have access to a handbook on the SCR274N equipment, of which these units form part, a study was made of the circuit details from which was learnt that the oscillator coil has three windings (see Fig. 1), one being the usual electron coupled oscillator winding which is tapped and connected through a resistance to the grid of a magic eye tube which is used as a crystal oscillator for calibration purposes. Another winding couples the output of the oscillator to the p.a. tubes which are connected in parallel, this winding being centre-tapped, one side going to the grids of the p.a. tubes and the other to the neutralising condenser, while the centre-tap returns through a bias resistance to earth. The third winding is placed in series with the heater of the oscillator tube.

To make the alterations necessary for use, turn the chassis upside down with the oscillator tube and magic eye to the rear. On the left-hand 1625 tube socket pin No. 1 has three white wires connected to it. One of these can be seen going to the front of the unit, one towards the rear and the third towards the right-hand side. Disconnect the wire going to the front of the unit and also the one to the right and connect both to socket connection 2 which is spare.

From pin 7 of this same socket disconnect the white wire and reconnect to pin 1, from which the two other white wires were removed. Next bridge pins 2 and 7 together and run a wire across to pin 7 of the right-hand 1625, this change having placed the heaters in parallel and completed the circuit for the control relays which control the h.t. and stand-by circuit as well as the antenna switching which is the output terminal for the new v.f.o.

To place the oscillator and magic eye heaters in parallel disconnect and remove the resistor mounted on the rear wall of the chassis at present connected to pins 2 and 7 of the magic eye. Disconnect also the ½ watt resistor connected between pins 2 and 8 of this tube, and remove the white wire from pin 7 of the socket and re-connect to bottom left-hand pin of the power socket (pin No. 6). Now bridge pins 1 and 7 of the magic eye socket and earth to chassis. This completes the work under the chassis leaving a few alterations "upstairs."

Remove the antenna coil and from the connection on the tank coil where the T.C.C. wire from the antenna coil was connected and run a new wire to the antenna terminal via the relay contacts. The needs of individuals may be varied at this point. At 4FN the antenna terminal was removed and a co-ax connector substituted, also the relay contacts were not used.

All that remains is to connect a power supply to the socket, with 12 volts d.c. via switch to pin 5 of power plug to operate relays and the unit is ready for operation, the rest of the supply being 12 volts a.c. for the heaters, 250 volts d.c. to the plates of the 1625s, 200 volts to the screens and 105 volts to the oscillator, stabilised by a VR105/30.

Tune the main dial to the crystal frequency and switch ON, giving the unit about 30 minutes to settle down. Note whether the magic eye shadow is wide (i.e. 90°). If not, the oscillator is not tuned to the crystal; to adjust, slide back the small cover on top of the unit giving access to the oscillator adjusting screw in the coil box. Carefully adjust until the eye angle is 90°.

The units in use here have proved to be very stable and, as could be expected, have oceans of output. The output in fact is somewhat embarassing and it is proposed to remove one of the 1625 tubes and re-adjust for single tube operation. This calls for a change in the grid bias resistance and an adjustment to the neutralising condenser which will be found on the right-hand side wall of the unit. This job however is not a difficult one. (Another alternative is to cut the h.t. supply to the tube and leave it in, which would not upset neutralising and only call for a change in bias.—Ed.)

CONVERTING TO TAKE 807s

If a unit has been purchased which has no valves, it may be more convenient to use 6 volt filament types. The 1625 sockets can be easily altered to take 807s as follows:—

Remove the "U" shaped springs from pins 1, 2, 4, 6 and 7 on each socket, and then bend contacts apart slightly.

A small rat-tail file can now be inserted in the socket holes and the insulation filed. Holes 1 and 7 are filed half the diameter of an 807 socket pin in the direction of the centre of the socket. Hole 4 is elongated equal to its own diameter, also in the direction of the centre of the socket. Holes 2 and 6 are filed equal to their own diameter, in the direction of hole 4.

After checking to see the 807 fits correctly, replace the socket springs.

In the original 7 pin sockets, pins 2 and 5 were used as tie points, having no connection to the valves. It is therefore necessary to remove the plate resistor from its tie point on pin 2 of the right-hand socket, and connect direct to its by-pass condenser. On the left-hand socket the relay leads connected to pin 2 (in article), are shifted to pin No. 7 and the strap between pin 7 and 2 removed.

The screen leads which were on pin 3 of each socket are re-wired on pins 2.

BAND SPREADING

The degree of spread on the Amateur bands can be increased by placing a fixed capacity in series with the oscillator and p.a. tank condensers. These condensers must have the same value to retain tracking. Values of 100 pF. give a good spread and should be good quality mica condensers, the oscillator condenser being a zero coefficient ceramicon preferably. The 7-7.2 Mc. band occupies about 90 degrees of dial space on the 5.3 to 7 Mc. model with the series capacity specified.

Series Phased Aerial Arrays

(Continued from Page 5)

main boom according to the circumstances and the room available and provide cross numbers of light, strong timber and attach grid which is supported by a number of polystyrene split blocks. This holds the whole grid of tubing rigid on to the wooden frame and the method of rotation is one of normal practice and must be left to the intending builder's imagination, his circumstances and his pocket book.

Reference is made to the method of folding the quarter wave feeder and terminating stubs back under the beam to save room. This in no way affects the behaviour of the beam. It should be remembered that the direction of propagation is back over the feeding end of the beam when it is terminated with a 300 ohm resistor.

A TWIN RIBBON SERIES PHASED BEAM

Reference to the drawing of the Series Phased Beam will suggest that there are more ways of filling a pig other than choking him with butter. There is available these days, twin ribbon feeder cable in various impedances. It is suggested that the feed from the transmitter tank could well be in 300 ohm ribbon and the elements of 80 ohm—the feed between each section to be also of 300 ohms.

The whole could be laid out on insulators on a wooden frame and would be light and effective. The feeding stub need not be used as the 300 ohm ribbon will eliminate the necessity for its use. A quarter wave of the same 300 ohm cable can then be used as the terminating stub and this may be very conveniently folded back under the beam. If a bi-directional beam is desired, this too can be dispensed with altogether.

FEEDING AND BALANCE OF BEAMS

One of the most important subjects which Amateur transmitters should give attention to is the matter of feeding. The old idea of stuffing a few turns into the tank should be avoided. This practice almost invariably results in capacity coupling and if the case is bad may result in the beam and its feeders acting as a Marconi radiator against ground or the electric wiring system.

An aerial tuner should be used in all cases. This will ensure good results, by elimination of standing waves, b.c.i., etc., and above all reduce the losses in the system, thus ensuring maximum energy in the radiator.

The reader is strongly urged to read "Parallel Standing Waves," by W3BLZ, in "QST" of Jan. 1948, page 45. Application of the suggestions contained in this useful article will help towards the objective.

ALTERATION TO V.H.F. BAND

As a result of negotiations between Federal Executive and the P.M.G's. Department the band 144 to 148 Mc. becomes available for exclsuive Amateur use as from the 1st May, 1948. This band replaces the 166 to 170 Mc. band.

ARE YOU GUILTY?

"HOW TO LOSE FRIENDS"

By E. A. Charles, VK5YQ

Before proceeding I would like to apologise to all those to whom I caused unnecessary QRM in 1947. I refer in particular to those nightly 14 Mc. phone cross-town long-winded inane rag-chews. It shall not occur again.

Good operators are the result of successful experience. It takes some a lot longer than others to catch on. Instead of complaining, let's try and help the other guy learn a little more rapidly

THE SECRET OF SUCCESSFUL DX IS THE ABILITY TO VISUALIZE THE SITUATION AT THE OTHER END AT THE TIME!

To illustrate I will quote two examples. The first, Friday evening, 2nd January:—VK-ADX v.f.o's. onto W3JCR's frequency and answers his CQ, with about 50 calls before giving his own. By some miracle he is partly heard; by a greater miracle, answered. W3JCR explains, says his name is Bill and goes over. Back comes ADX (who obviously didn't get this), "you're Readability 5 and Strength 8 to 9 **old man**!" Neither are heard again.

Here is what ADX obviously does not know. W's phone band is 14200 to 14300 Kc.; there are quite a lot of American stations licenced. He was lost in QRM before he started Any station that calls very long without giving his own call is automatically passed on.

When the Ws aren't coming through it is nice to move into their phone band to be clear of QRM. However, how many of you give it real thought—if you listened with a little more interest you would most likely hear some VK4 or VK6s working them. So you don't QSY there to give them QRM unnecessarily.

If you don't know how the bands are used, ask someone—that's how we all learn.

Second example, Saturday afternoon, 3rd January:—VK2OQ contacts TI2OA from about 10 Kc above his frequency. VK-JP was there, over-modulating and v.f.o-ing onto each South American as he appeared. I did hear TI2MA go back to JP as ---JC, but at that time, TI2OA had called CQ at S9 plus. Before VK2OQ has finished, JP is on his frequency frantically calling again. They have another over—at least TI2OA does—then JP calls again despite the fact that Otto had said he was looking for VK3SB Noting the absence of the VK3, I picked a frequency a little clear—lower than the above splatter, and contacted TI2OA But did I hear his final? No! JP was on him again calling! I pulled the switches in disgust! But I'll bet he didn't get that QSO

The correct thing to do—picture yourself at the other end—would you answer a station that rudely interrupts your conversation? You'll tune away to someone in the clear. Simple, isn't it?

Unfortunately some people let their enthusiasm over-ride their better judgment. What if you do make the DX Century Club in record time, you'll lose your good name in the process. DX will always be with us.

Most people call far too long. Admittedly some stations have HRO receivers with 400 degrees of bandspread, but a chappie usually first tunes the end of the band on which he himself is operating. Put yourself at the other end. OK—if you are on the opposite end of the band, wait until you think he has reached there, and call briefly. You have saved wasted calling should he find someone on his end of the band. Personally I always specify at the end of a CQ just from which end of the band I shall commence to tune. And when I answer (invariably in the case of VK contacts), I call no more than six times, sign and listen. If he doesn't come back, I wait until I think he has tuned to the other end of the band, then call briefly again.

The QSO itself. Unless you have something unsual in the way of antenna, receiver, or circuit hook-up, the other chap doesn't want to know—he's far more interested in the way his own rig is performing. However he does like to see how the antenna and power results compare. If he is new, you may be able to help him overcome a spot of bother which concerns him much more than the DX you are itching to boast about. And **please** don't talk for the sake of talking to the "great unseen audience." There are lots of listeners who aren't "wireless cranks." Remember, your operating style is a fair indication of your character!

Then there's the matter of giving information. It pays to be sure of what you say—we can all make mistakes at times. The other chap will undoubtedly look it up and/or try it out—and undoubtedly change his opinion of you. Why not quote a reference—"I saw it in so and so." After all there are few of us with laboratory facilities, and far less who know something that isn't to be found in a book somewhere.

This "Hi-Hi" business on phone. To those who must punctuate each sentence with this method, why not break the monotony by using a few "Hee-Hee," "Ho-Ho" and "Haw-Haw's" if you can't laugh naturally. Granted a normal guffaw could be lost in QRN when working an XU or KQ

"NEVERMORE QUOTH THE RAVEN!"

By "Damocles"

Great game this Ham racket—been in it a long time haven't you—all of ten years or so—know all there **is** to know —and don't hesitate to air the vast fund of knowledge Big authority and all that. You are Mr. Ultra-Modern Era phone-man, yes, you can punch a key too, but you only do that on occasions; knowing that if what you sent in "the clear" reached authority, there might be storm clouds on the horizon.

No, you aren't in the radio industry, but you gave that other VK an ear-bashing about what he should do. **He** couldn't be expected to know over-much —he is only a lab. technician with one of the largest radio engineering concerns. You couldn't be expected to know either that he was modest enough to pass your gab, in one oreille and out the other, but you know more than him; you just read it up in the Handbook in the long-suffering boss' time.

Yes, a plausible mike technique sure impresses that new Ham, but depend upon it that he will find you out, perhaps sooner than later. Your station is a beacon light in the wilderness of deadheads on the band; your "audience" awaits your advent with bated breath And then, l'entrae magnifique! Wisecracking, "Smart Alec Comebacks" and sepulchral "Heh, Heh, Heh's" of the kind that infect your imitators so profoundly. This is the stock-in-trade, and this is the Era of Progress; of speech and still more speech—ad lib—ad infinitum—and to the devil with the morse key

Fancy any poor mutt **wanting** to really **use** c.w. and to waste time thusly. Besides, how **could** the girl friends be impressed if they couldn't hear those dulcet honeyed tones. And when they visit your shack, which is so often, what more fitting than they be duly impressed with "Raaaaagers" and "Brrrrreaks" —with a few Wilco's thrown in for good measure. Thus is your superb wizardry demonstrated

Atmosphere is provided by gurgling liquid sounds, clinking glasses and thinly veiled innuendoes, so full of zest. The audience there and "on the air" are rocked to the foundations. It is fitting to inform the world at large that you suffer from "hangovers" as a result of "sessions." It is the very pinnacle of good taste that exudes from your microphone, or so you dumbly imagine.

It is impressive to yap in staccato phrases, inferential tones and ill-concealed riddles—transparent in fact to anybody with the smallest IQ. There are lots of fellow-hams that you don't like on the air—but you don't tell them so directly—they mightn't be so complacent about it. The technique is indirect reference with an under-current of spreading ill-will far and wide. But the saying that "he who throws mud must expect some to stick to himself" is just as true in this Amateur Radio game as in other walks of life. And sometimes prodded worms turn out to be angry lions.

Far better is it to accept this erstwhile pleasant hobby of Amateur Radio as a hobby—for that after all, is just what it is—nothing more or less. When individuals make it a medium for antagonism between fellows, then it becomes something else—and even the proverbial Raven would be averse to it.

And of which is to draw attention to the unpleasant fact that there are instances of phone operation on our bands that would be better eliminated—for the good of the hobby. These are casual observations, they mention no specific individual, the only offence likely to be taken is by those with guilty conscience. There are phone merchants of the ilk portrayed among us but they are in the minority. But a cancer starts with a minor ailment!

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NEW EQUIPMENT

KINGSLEY NARROW BAND F.M. ADAPTOR

This unit consists essentially of a limiter and a discriminator, the purpose of which is to permit reception of frequency modulated transmissions.

Any Communications type receiver with a 455 Kc. i.f. channel as the final intermediate frequency may be adapted for f.m. in this way. "The New Look" type of final low frequency i.f. channel (to steal a term from "QST") would of course be the wrong i.f. frequency, but how could one receive f.m. phone with an i.f. pass band with this form anyhow?

The adaptor, which is illustrated in the Kingsley advertisement in this Magazine, uses a 6J5 as a cathode follower, connected directly to the secondary of the final i.f. transformer and, due to the small loading effect of the well-known cathode follower system, the alignment of the i.f. transformer is readily restored by a very minor adjustment to the secondary trimmer or tuning core. In order to take the best advantage of the cathode follower, the adaptor is designed to plug directly into a six pin socket which is to be mounted on the rear of the receiver chassis, as close to the output of the i.f. channel as possible and as the other connections to the receiver circuit are heater, h.t. supply and audio frequency input, these lead lengths are relatively unimportant.

From the cathode follower 6J5 via resistance capacity coupling we go to the 6SJ7 limiter. This stage is the conventional grid leak, low plate and screen voltage connection, and in the limiter plate circuit is the special balanced discriminator transformer which in turn looks into a 6H6, using the Foster and Seeley discriminator circuit. This discriminator transformer has a litz wire wound primary fitted with an iron dust pot and tuned with an iron dust core to 455 Kc. The secondary is a balanced winding in two sections and is padded with a fixed silvered mica condenser and tuned with a 3 to 30 pF. trimmer.

The discriminator output is taken via a coupling and filter system to the audio frequency input to the receiver and this is an efficient and convenient place for the switching to be made from a.m. to f.m.

In fitting this adaptor unit, the input to the a.f. gain control is opened and both the output from the original a.m. detector and the input to the a.f. channel are run in shielded wire via the socket at the rear of the chassis into the adaptor to pick up the output from the f.m. detector, then along to a switch, to be fitted in a convenient place on the front panel of the receiver. Thus once the unit is installed and the two trimmers peaked to the i.f. frequency, the simple operation of a single pole double throw toggle switch, changes the receiver immediately from a.m. to f.m. reception.

BRITISH RADIO COMPONENTS MANUFACTURERS' EXHIBITION

Federal Executive received an invitation to attend this Exhibition, and as readers will realise it was impossible for a member of F.E. to accept this invitation, Federal Executive requested Mr Ken McTaggart (VK3NW/G3CUA), who is at present in England, to represent the Wireless Institute of Australia.

Ken duly attended the Exhibition and the following is an extract from his letter, and we have no doubt that readers will find it interesting.

"This is just to let you know that in due course I attended the Radio Components - Manufacturers' Exhibition at the Grosvenor House Hotel and found it of very great interest. Under separate cover and by ordinary mail, I am sending you one of the small "guides" to the exhibits which will give you some idea of the number of exhibitors and the variety of components on show, and also a couple of leaflets which describe some new departures in the design of speakers which I thought of special interest.

"It would be impossible for me to describe even a fraction of the good things I saw. This country appears to make every imaginable component nowadays, and the quality seems of a high order. Unfortunately in the shops the prices are rather too high and many things are in short supply, but that does not alter the fact that the manufacturers here are wide awake and out to produce the goods.

"I might mention in particular the very fine ceramic mouldings that are made for switches, valve sockets, condenser insulating, standoffs, and so on; the variety of plastic insulated cables including the wide range of 'twin lead' of various impedances, and co-axial cable from approximately ¼" diam. up to over an inch; a wonderful assortment of relays of all descriptions; speakers from 2" to 20" and larger for public address work—including the new speakers described in the pamphlet I have sent which are from 2½" to 8" diam. and only ½" to ¾" deep, very useful for portables, mantle models, etc., and anywhere where space is at a premium.

"This country is also producing splendid meters of all kinds, also a wide range of microphones, while fixed condensers of various sizes and tolerances (down to ± 0.5%) and finished in 'lacquer,' 'manufacturers' semi-tropical,' and 'fully tropicalised' finishes make one's mouth water.

"I could go on like this for many pages but it would not tell you a great deal. To summarise, I would say that things are booming here and England is producing radio gear equal to any in the world and better than most. Thank you once again for sending me the invitation.

"Yes, I see Elgar Treharne periodically and have passed on your 73. He maintains regular contact with his father 2BM and seldom misses a morning. I have not been so fortunate, but have contacted a number of the boys including 3YP, 3BZ, 3CZ, 3XU. Also some VK2s, 4s, 5s, 7s, and one VK6. I have been on 58.5 Mc. quite a lot and find conditions there very good with much more temperature inversion than we get in VK3, enabling work from 50 to 200 miles to be done quite regularly. 50 Mc. has now faded out again and unfortunately I was not able to get on during the excitement. However I may be able to do something in the summer before I leave here.

"I get the Mag regularly—although belated—and am very glad to see that the 50 Mc fellows are keeping up the good work with field days, Spor. E and so on. One reason for wanting to return is to take part in those most enjoyable outings to the hills!"

FRENCH EXPEDITION TO THE ANTARCTIC

It will be recalled that Monsieur Yves Valette, who is mentioned, was a guest at a recent general meeting of the Victorian Division and spoke of the proposed French expedition to the Antarctic during a short address to members.

Monsieur Valette was accompanied by Monsieur G. B. Perronne, Commercial Secretary to the French Consulate in Melbourne, who approached the Victorian Division of the W.I.A. in making the initial enquiries concerning the possibility of the French expedition maintaining constant radio contact with Australia.

The following article appeared in the Melbourne "Age" on Saturday, 3rd April.

"France will send a well-equipped scientific expedition to the Antarctic at the end of this year. It will be the first French party to visit the Antarctic since 1909.

"M. Yves Valette, a French engineer, received a letter from the French Government confirming the plan to send an expedition southward when he stepped ashore at Williamstown on Friday, 2nd April, from H.M.A.S. LST3501, which returned from the Antarctic. He will be one of the leaders of the expedition.

"M. Valette has had wide experience in the north polar regions, and 'limbered up' with a 300-mile trek on Spitzbergen before he flew out to Australia, to accompany the Australian party to the south. He is a champion skier.

"He went to the Antarctic in H.M.A.S. LST3501 to study conditions and make an advance survey for the French expedition.

"M. Valette said the expedition would go southward in minesweepers used during the war by the Free French. He said the party would include meteorologists, geologists—who will look into the rumor that uranium ore is available in the Antarctic—and cosmic ray experts.

"'All the details are being worked out in Paris,' he added. 'It will be a most important expedition. We must establish our claim down there.' The French party will sail from Australia."

FIFTY AND UP

Compiled by VK3QO, to whom all contributions can be sent

DX ACTIVITIES

Max 3BQ took a little holiday on the 20th and 21st of March; while he was away someone turned on his 50 Mc. receiver and heard what they took to be ZL4BT, but did not make a note of it! About three weeks ago 3HD had a contact with 4ZU, sigs faded out on the [illegible] over. Next was on 7/4/48 3KU heard 2ADT and 2LY. On same evening 5QR worked 2YR, 2LY and 2WJ, S9 both ways at 9.30 p.m.

On Saturday 17/4/48, between 2130 and 2225 3RR heard 2ADT, 2CC and 2HU. Dicky called and worked them, but not too good as sigs were in and out, peaking to S9. However 3GM and 3ZL at Ballarat worked each of them with fair reports. 4XG, 4ZU and 4XU were also heard working among themselves. 5QR and 5LO also contacted these VK2s. 3XA heard 2ADT S9, but no contact.

It is understood that on Sunday, 18/4/48, the ZL boys worked from one end of New Zealand to the other, being a 1,000 mile hop. Fine business fellows. This just shows how you have to watch the band, if you want your share of DX.

W2SAV/KL7 in the Aleutian Islands will be on 52 Mc. with 1 kilowatt input with special antenna beamed on Australia. He will be listening on that band and will also be active on 14 Mc. W2SAV/KL7 would appreciate any reports should his signals on 52 Mc. be heard.

VK3-VK7 CONTACTS

Some very interesting work has been done by VK3CI in working from Mt. Fatigue across Bass Strait to 7AB in Burnie and 7XL in Devonport, a distance of about 1[illegible] miles.

3CI first made contact on 2[illegible] and on next week-end, 3rd and 4th March, he camped out up on Mt. Fatigue (about 35 miles from coast). On the Saturday at 1430 hours he worked 7AB with S9 sigs and no QSB. 7AL [illegible] on at a time.

However [illegible] worked back 7AB and 7XL about every hour or so with [illegible] signals so it appears that ground wave was being used. (3RR says it may have been a "water wave.") On the Sunday, he repeated the performance, but 3DI portable at Leongatha and 3HK portable at south end of the Dandenong Ranges, and 3VL at Red Hill did not hear the VK7s. 3BQ at home, heard a carrier which he has very reason to believe was 7AB and if c.w. had been used he could have identified it positively. Further tests will be made to see if contact can be made from lower levels.

VK2 V.H.F. MEETING

The V.H.F. Group, which meets at Science House on the second Friday in each month celebrates its first birthday this month (April). The members, whose numbers are gradually increasing, are most enthusiastic. The March meeting took the form of an informal "free-for-all" discussion on many things—almost the proverbial ships and shoes, etc.

Two items of outstanding interest were brought up by Messrs. McGowan (2MQ) and McDonald (2AFG). Mr. McGowan spoke on the subject of r.f. amplifiers and frequency converters for 50 Mc. and outlined some experiments he has made on the subject. Mr. McDonald detailed a novel converter for 28 and 50 Mc. A 6AK5 r.f. amplifier precedes an ECH35 mixer-oscillator, and the grid tuning for each valve is by means of a condenser of sufficient capacity range to cover both bands without changing coils. The oscillator operates in the range of 39-43 Mc., thus giving an 11 Mc. i.f. from either band. The result is a converter giving single dial control, full scale bandspread and without coil switching. Both these gentlemen have agreed to write articles on their respective subjects for publication in "Amateur Radio," and it is felt that both articles will be very interesting.

Mr. John Fry of the C.S.I.R., Radiophysics Laboratory, was to have addressed the April V.H.F. meeting on the subject of V.H.F. Receiver Design, but unfortunately developed appendicitis at the last minute. His place was ably filled by Mr. Bird, who spoke on the subject of antenna arrays giving 360 degrees, low-angle coverage, with horizontal polarisation. This lecture was of great interest (mainly to those having access to large quantities of brass tubing!) and Mr. Bird has kindly consented to write an article on the subject for "A.R."

At this meeting a discussion was opened regarding vertical versus horizontal polarisation for opening the 144 Mc. band. After considerable discussion, it was decided to recommend that HORIZONTAL polarisation be regarded as "standard." At the same time, it is realised that vertical polarisation has its merits, especially for local contacts, and those having facilities for erecting both systems are urged to do so.

In order to stimulate use of the V.H.F. bands, it has been decided to organise a contest. A committee has been appointed to consider the form the contest is to take, and to formulate rules, etc. Details will be published at a later date.

The Radio Research Board who are concerned with ionospheric soundings and predictions, have expressed an interest in long distance and unusual propagation conditions on v.h.f's. It is stressed that normal contacts are of little value and the required information is as follows:—

> Date, Frequency, Direction of Signal arrival, Distance between Stations, Signal Strength, Time coming in, and Time fading out.

Mr. Curruthers (VK2AXB) has agreed to act as "clearing house" for reports as above, and it is requested that reports be addressed as follows:—

> Mr. Curruthers, c/o. Court House, Newtown, N.S.W.

Once again members using the 50-54 Mc. band and those planning to use it, are urged to utilise the high frequency portion of the band, and to sign off, at least on c.w. Commercial interests have their eyes on the 50 Mc. band and will have a very strong case if the section from say 52 to 54 Mc. is not used by Amateurs. The recommendation to use c.w. is prompted by the fact that weak carriers are often heard, but cannot be identified on phone, whereas if c.w. were used it might open up DX possibilities.

JOTTINGS FROM AROUND THE STATES

VK3KX at Colac (90 miles) broke through several times on calm nights in the last month. He worked a number of the Melbourne boys at S6/8 using a long wire (one leg of a V beam); tried a two element beam but signals were no better.

3HZ (Warragul) and 3DI (Leongatha) get good signals from one another. 3ZL (Ballarat) has been busy trying out different converters, but finds his old set is best. Runs a regular sked with 3HK at Mitcham. 3HK gets 3VL with 3HK's beam 135 degrees from correct position, evidently due to some reflection or other. 3RR has been trying out a six element beam at Macrae. 3BQ gave him S9 plus 24 db off front, side S3, back S5, giving a front to back of 48 db (eight S points). Dicky still not satisfied and thinks he can do better!! Job was close spaced, 12½ feet high.

3NP is latest addition to 50 Mc. band using 100 watts to p.p. 808s in final with 15 tube modulator system with all "mod. cons." Complained that [illegible] in final condenser had a carbon "path" across it; 3RR suggested cutting it into cubes for "stepping stones." 3KC (Kensington) is another new one, uses an 807 with about 20 watts and puts out a good signal. 3BQ still calls as usual on c.w. at 1200 and 1500 hours each day. 3VM has put in an appearance on the band with a mobile rig consisting of an crystal exciter to an 832, using a few watts into a vertical ¼ wave on back of car. Receiver is a two tube super regen to ¼ wave antenna on top of car. Has worked a few of the locals. 3XA has fitted a discriminator to "Super-Pro" and finds that i.f's. have to be set to maximum band-width for best quality. 3BD busy on new converter using grounded grid r.f. stage, etc.

From 3ABG at Avenel.—Active on 50 Mc. up here (80 miles north of Melbourne) are 3UI, 3DW, 3APF and myself. Communication is 100 per cent. on phone between all of us at all times. 3APF is very keen, has tried several converters, latest one seems pretty hot. He runs 15 watts to an 807 and three element beam on 50 Mc., 3.5 Mc. sepp on the receiver. He is receiving Melbourne signals now. 3DW is still putting out very f.b. sigs from 18 watts and 3UI has been working 3VL, 3HK, 3ABA and 3CP including duplex with 3VL. Alan would like more stations to call on c.w. then use phone if sigs are OK. His line noise is very high and c.w. gets through it better. We also request that Melbourne stations give their call signs on 100 per cent. mod.

Main activity in VK4 centres in preparation of gear for 144 Mc. 522s are well in the fore-front as transmitters and a good few of the receivers also. 4HR, 4RY and 4XG all erecting six element beams for 144 Mc. "Q" section as described in the Handbook. The v.h.f. gang are looking forward to the Field Day on the 1st and 2nd of May to mark the opening of the band, when 4CU and 4SN intend operating from Mt. Kynock, Toowoomba, 4KP from Springbrook and 4XG and 4ZU from Maleny. 4XG will use a six element array on 144 Mc., 4ZU a four element on 50 Mc. and a sixteen element on 144 Mc. 4RT busy converting his 522 transmitter to 50 Mc. Has fitted a pre-amp for a crystal microphone but is having a little feedback trouble. 4KB somewhat embarrassed for time, but getting a responder unit going as a receiver. Getting elements together for a beam. 4ZU just finished a dual converter unit for 50 and 144 Mc., the thing feeds into a 348 and works out quite well. Owners of 522s, who are having bother extracting screws from condenser couplings, etc., should remember that a little heat applied to the screw area makes the job much easier. Even the tang of a file ground to size is sufficient to remove the screws under this treatment, according to 4RT who has tried it.

From VK5QR.—Apologies to 3QO from VK5 gang for not writing, but activity is at low level here in VK5 at the moment.

From VK6LW.—Very little to report this month. Usual nightly activity and increasing interest among country stations. 6FC at Minding (118 miles) still putting in good signals at night, but believe his rig is to be returned to 6GJ, also at Minding. Hope Jack will soon have receiver going on 50 Mc. Several attempts made during Easter holidays to make contact from Gnowangerup to Perth, Albany, Minding, Manjimup by VK2, 3, 4, 5 [illegible] ZL, but apparently no TI—certainly no signals. 6LW's portable at Northam worked back to 6FC at Cottesloe, a distance of 60 miles. Strengths 5 and 7 were the reports. Believe several lads waiting to go on 144 Mc. with SCR522s. Watch it chaps, and don't beat the gun. Remember May 1, not April 30.

144 Mc. DIGEST

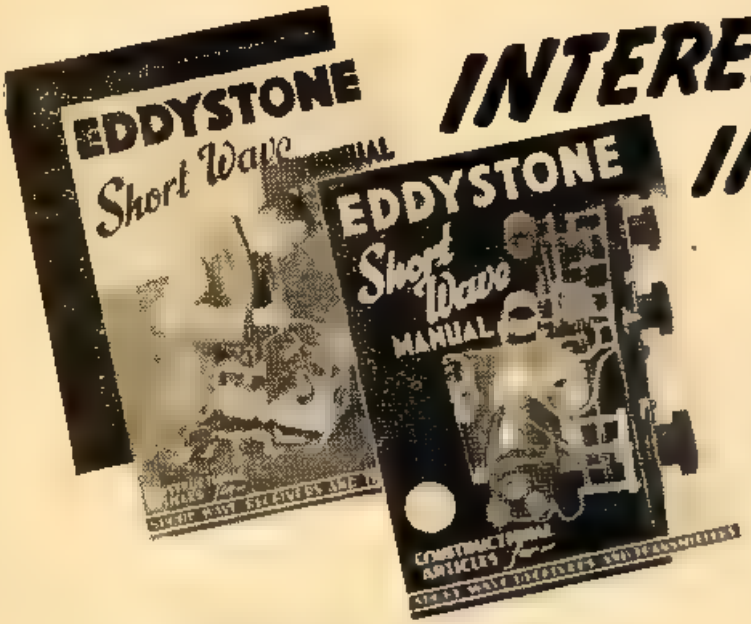
By the time these notes (by Bill Hartley) are published the old 166 Mc. band will be finished with, but not forgotten as the gang will have pleasant memories of the good times that they had on the old spot and will leave it with a touch of regret. [illegible] one bright spot [illegible] 144 Mc. band, [illegible] final field for the W.A.S. [illegible] all suburbs).

Operations [illegible] 166 Mc. even right up to the [illegible] always some [illegible] putting in an appearance. 3ADF being [illegible] to an 832, four stage [illegible] with a class B CN7 modulator on to a portable W8JK, the receiver is one using a f.b. two stage grounded grid pre-amp using EL37s, which lift anything from S1 to S9.

In preparation for the last 166 Mc. field day in VK3 the following carried out tests: 3ACM, 3ABA, YS, 3LS, 3LH, 3MB, 3MN, 3XM, 3EM and 3YJ. 3LS at Mt. Dandenong [illegible] flattened Melbourne with a maximum effort [illegible] trying to get by to 3AKI at Mt. Sabine on the coast. The actual Field Day opened up under dull and cloudy conditions and by [illegible] rain ruined any good work. The most notable signal [illegible] from Mt. Macedon, where 3ACM was pushing out a steady 5 and 9 [illegible] in the afternoon to 3ADA at Pretty Sally Hill, and to the home stations 3EM and 3LH. 3ACM topped off the day with a f.b. two way record-breaking phone contact for a distance of 92 miles to 3MB at Poowong in South Gippsland. Congrats to both 3ACM and 3MB for taking the National title, the nearest to this effort was by 2BZ in Newcastle to 2YW at Maroubra, a distance of 78 miles and before that a jump of 73 miles by 3LS at Mt. Macedon to 3YS located at Arthur's Seat on Port Phillip Bay.

Interest is still maintained in 166 Mc. by the Adelaide boys where the latest recruits to the band are 5AF, 5CB and 5GA, all are using CV6 mod. osc. plus a mixture of long wires, dipoles and ground plane antennae. 5JD's super receiver provides too many headaches, better wait for 144 Mc. Johnny 2NP informs that there are scores of VK2 stations sitting on the fence waiting to head in on 1st May. Incidentally, both 2NP and 2KI will be down South again, probably with the QTH at Laverton.

In view of the shift to the 144 Mc. spectrum, it is considered by many that something definite concerning the type of aerial polarisation for this band should be decided on, the object being to avoid cross polarisation, or to put it plainly, for everybody to start operations on the new band with the same kind of polarisation so as to avoid conflicting results. The "Gallop-Poll" to date, in VK3, is quite unanimous, as to horizontal polarisation and, judging by the change-over from the vertical form in N.S.W., the VK2 boys also agree. It seems to be the logical step to use horizontal as it provides greater discrimination against auto ignition QRM as well as from harmonics from the lower frequencies. Still, it is a matter of location and experimentation, and that is what we are here for, so we hope for co-operation from the Interstate v.h.f. groups in deciding what standard is to be used.



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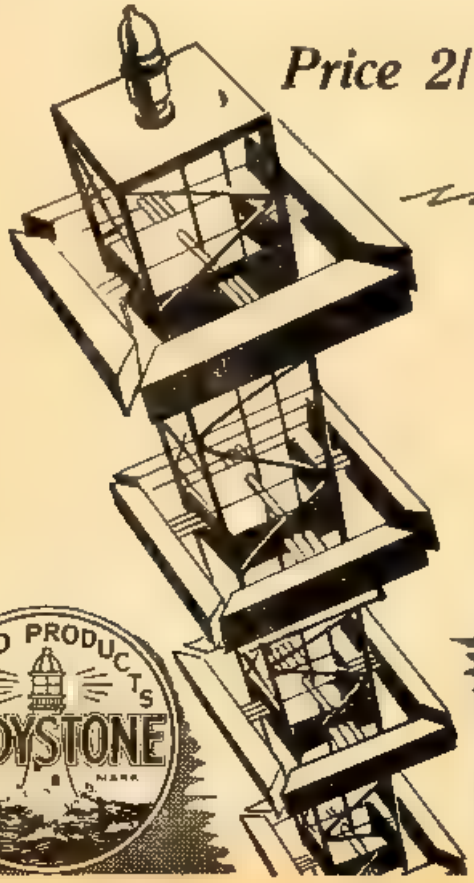

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NEW SOUTH WALES

Secretary.—Wal Nye (VK2XU), Box 1734, G.P.O., Sydney.

Meeting Night.—Fourth Friday of each month at Science House, Corner Gloucester and Essex Sts., Sydney.

Divisional Sub-Editor.—R. Deal, 209 Oberon Street, Coogee.

Zone Correspondents.—North Coast and Tablelands: P. A. H. Alexander, VK2PA, Hill St., Port Macquarie. **Newcastle:** E. J. Baker, VK2FP, 13 Skelton St., Hamilton, Newcastle. **Coalfields and Lakes:** H. Hawkins, VK2YL, 27 Comfort Ave., Cessnock. **Western:** G. J. Russel, VK2QA, 116 Bogan St., Nyngan. **South Coast and Tablelands:** R. H. Rayner, VK2DO, 42 Pettit St., Yass. **Southern:** E. N. Arnold, VK2OJ, 673 Forrest Hill Ave., Albury.

VICTORIA

Secretary.—A. B. D. Evans, VK3VQ, Box 2611W, G.P.O., Melbourne. Telephone FJ 6997.

Meeting Night.—First Wednesday of each month at the Radio School, Melbourne Technical College.

Zone Correspondents.—North Western. B. R. Mann, VK3BM, Quambatook. **Western.** C. C. Waring, VK3YW, 12 Skene St., Stawell. **South Western.** B. Sechrne, VK3B, 17a Raglan Street North, Ballarat. **North Eastern.** D. Tacey, VK3DW, 18 Harold St., Shepparton. **Far North-Western Zone:** Harry Dobbyn, VK3MF, 42 Walnut Ave., Mildura. **Eastern Zone:** J. D. Chilver, VK3DI, 20 Smith St., Leongatha.

WI BROADCASTS

All Amateurs are urged to keep these frequencies clear during, and for a period of 15 minutes after, the official Broadcasts.

VK2WI.—Sundays, 1100 hours EST, 7190 Kc. and 2000 hours EST 50.4 Mc. No frequency checks are available from VK2WI.

VK3WI.—Sundays, 1130 hours EST 7196 Kc. Spot frequencies every fourth Tuesday between 7000 and 7200 Kc. every 10 Kc. Individual frequency checks of Amateur Stations given when VK3WI is on the air.

VK4WI.—Sundays, 0900 hours EST simultaneously on 7109 Kc., 14342 Kc. and 52.004 Mc. Frequency checks are given two nights weekly, and the hours are announced during the Sunday broadcasts.

VK5WI.—Sundays, 1000 hours SAST on 7168 Kc. Frequency checks are given by VK5DW on Friday evenings on the 7 and 14 Mc. bands.

From VK6WH.—Sundays, 0930 hours WAST on 7168 Kc. No frequency checks available.

VK7WI.—Second and Fourth Sundays at 1030 hours EST on 7174 Kc. No frequency checks are available.

QUEENSLAND

Secretary.—G. G. Augusteson, Box 638J, G.P.O., Brisbane.

Meeting Night.—Last Friday in each month at the State Service Building, Elizabeth St., City.

Divisional Sub-Editor: H. T. MacGregor, VK4ZU, "Moquet," Eildon Rd., Windsor.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Secretary.—E. A. Barbier, VK5MD, Box 1234K, G.P.O., Adelaide.

Meeting Night.—Second Tuesday of each month at 17 Waymouth St., Adelaide.

Divisional Sub-Editor.—W. W. Parsons, VK5PS, 483 Esplanade, Henley Beach.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Secretary.—W. E. Coxon, VK6AG, 7 Howard St., Perth.

Meeting Night.—Second Monday in each month at the Builders' Exchange, St. George's Terrace, Perth.

Divisional Sub-Editor.—R. W. S. Hugo, VK6KW, 8 View St., Subiaco.

TASMANIA

Secretary.—J. Brown, VK7BJ, 12 Thirza St., Newtown. Telephone W 1328.

Meeting Night.—First Wednesday of each month at the Photographic Society's Rooms, 163 Liverpool St., Hobart.

Divisional Sub-Editor.—T. Connor, VK7CT, 385 Elizabeth St., Hobart.

Northern Correspondent.—C. P. Wright, VK7LZ, 3 Knight St., Launceston.

FEDERAL

THE CONVENTION

The Eighteenth Annual Federal Convention of the Wireless Institute of Australia was opened at the rooms of the Victorian Division at 2.15 p.m. on Friday 26th March, 1948. Being the third Convention held since the cessation of host ilities in 1945, it was again represented by delegates from all Divisions.

The delegates present were: New South Wales—Mr. J. M. Moyle, VK2JU; Victoria—Mr. H. N. Stevens, VK3JO; Queensland—Mr. F. M. Nolan, VK4FN; South Australia—Mr. H. L. Austin, VK5AW, and as an observer, Mr. A. F. Wreford, VK5DW; Western Australia—Mr. G. A. Moss, VK6GM; Tasmania—Mr. J. Brown, VK7BJ. Also in attendance were the Federal Vice-President, Mr. A. G. Glover, VK3AG, Federal Secretary, Mr. W. T. S. Mitchell, VK3UM, Federal Treasurer, Mr. P. Evans, VK3OZ, Federal Publicity Officer, Mr. G. W. Manning, VK3XJ.

Owing to illness the Federal President, Mr. W. G. Gronow, VK3WG, was unable to attend the Convention. We are pleased to say that he is now well on the way to recovery and ere long will be one of Hamdom's best golfers.

Mr. Evans, on behalf of Federal Executive, welcomed the visitors and was ably supported by Mr. H. N. Stevens, Victoria. Following on the reply made on behalf of the delegates by Mr. J. M. Moyle, nominations were called for the position of Chairman, to which Mr. A. G. Glover was appointed.

The first business of the Convention was to reach agreement on the title of the Federal Constitution and it was resolved that the 1947 Federal Constitution of the Wireless Institute of Australia be known as "The Wireless Institute of Australia 1939 Constitution as revised in 1947."

Following discussion on the Federal Constitution it was found that a slight re-drafting of three sections were to be made by Federal Executive and submitted with the minutes of the Convention to all Divisions for ratification.

A copy of the Federal Constitution will be made available for the perusal of any financial member upon application to his Divisional Secretary.

With regard to the drafting of a Uniform Divisional Constitution, the chairman gave an outline of the progress to date.

The Convention adopted the principle now in use in the New South Wales Division for use in all Divisions in relation to Radio Clubs.

As the time was not yet opportune for the appointment of full-time Federal Secretariat this matter was left in abeyance.

A report was made by Federal Executive giving details of the plan at present under discussion for the formation of an R.A.A.F. Reserve and in addition will collect and collate all available data regarding existing emergency networks and evolve a workable emergency scheme for a National Amateur Network.

SILENT KEYS

PHIL BREWER, ex-VK5JA

We regret to chronicle the passing, during April, of an old friend and colleague in Phil Brewer, ex-VK5JA. Phil, who first came on the air about 1927, was a power in the DX realms up to 1935. His operating ability was second to none, and he put VK5 in the picture in many a Fisk Contest. Of a quiet and retiring disposition, but possessing an intense sense of humour, Phil endeared himself to those fortunate enough to break down his natural reserve, and was not deserving of the worry and sickness that was his uncomplaining lot since 1943. Phil did not renew his licence after the recent World War. To his sorrowing wife and young son goes the condolences and sympathy of all old timers in Amateur Radio who deeply mourn his passing.

The Convention also felt that there was a need for the establishment of an A.O.C.P. correspondence course and in this connection have instructed Federal Executive to start implementation of such a course.

Considerable time was spent in discussion of the P.M.G. regulations, and it was decided to seek certain changes, notably the payment of licence fees in their own particular State and the inclusion of the words "by receivers of modern design" between the words "programmes" and "the Amateurs" in Regulation 107.

That Federal Executive continue its endeavours with the P.M.G.'s. Department with a view to ensuring that amateur station licensees receive the same consideration as broadcast listeners in regard to man-made interference and request the introduction of legislation to curb such interference.

All members are invited to log all types of transmissions from commercials and others not supposed to be in the amateur bands, and logs are to be forwarded, via their State Councillors, to Federal Executive.

The Convention confirmed the motion that W.I.A. traffic and broadcast channels be kept clear at the times and on the frequencies in use from time to time and as published in "Amateur Radio." In order to assist in this direction it was considered that Federal Executive evolve a plan for all official W.I.A. stations to operate on a frequency of 7196 Kc. on Sundays and all members are requested to keep that channel clear from 9 a.m. to noon E.A.S.T. After official broadcasts have been made the W.I.A. Station will change to a frequency to be determined for intra-state working and thereby permit the next Divisional broadcast to commence. Your earnest co-operation is desired in this connection as most of you chaps will realise by the amount of interference that appears with each official broadcast.

The illegal practice of breaking-in on a QSO for the purpose of interjecting facetious remarks and the abuse of the v.f.o. was strongly condemned. In view of the recent Editorial in "Amateur Radio" on this subject, no further warning should be necessary. It is considered the bounden duty of anyone hearing instances of this nature to contact the offender concerned and with tact point out the wrongs of such operation, also that he is likely to incur a penalty from the authorities. The above practices are not to be confused with the permissible procedure adopted by stations notifying their readiness to join a network or group of stations who habitually work together, that is, station operator switches on carrier after netting and says, "This is VK—— standing by for VK——," and immediately cuts carrier until invited to transmit.

It was also considered that the P.M.G.'s. Department be requested to allocate VK8 calls to Northern Territory stations and VK1 to Australian Capital Territory or other special stations.

Included in the agenda items was the hardy annual that "a gentleman's agreement" be made to observe portions of each band for c.w. operation. A plan was submitted and all delegates were asked to bring the matter before their Council for consideration.

It was felt that after listening to the various types of phonetic alphabets in use from phone stations that some uniformity be established and to this end it was recommended that the one published in the P.M.G.'s. Handbook should be encouraged. In order that an international standard phonetic alphabet be adopted the Federal Executive is communicating with the International Amateur Radio Union to this end.

When items concerning contests came up for discussion it was decided that the DX Contest be conducted in October in each year alternatively by the N.Z.A.R.T. and the Federal Executive. The 1948 one will be conducted by N.Z.A.R.T., and in 1949 it is thought that as Their Majesties will be touring Australia and New Zealand the Contest, which will be conducted by Federal Executive, could be suitably known as the "Royal Commemoration Contest." No doubt there will be certain legalities to be made in connection with the use of the word "Royal."

Contests, in the future, shall not exceed in duration 48 hours at any one period and the total operating therein shall be limited to 24 hours consecutive operating.

All contests of a Federal nature shall be conducted by Federal Executive under the direction of Federal Council. Federal Council has power to approve or otherwise of any Division conducting special contests.

As the concluding item on the agenda, Council decided that the next Federal Convention shall be held in Melbourne during Easter 1949.

During the course of the agenda business the Chairman requested submission of items for consideration as general business, twenty-two items were submitted, fourteen of which were carried. The items of general business included: redraft sections 40 and 55 of the Federal Constitution, delegates instructed by their Council to vote a certain way on agenda items shall send in a note to the Federal Secretary on which is stated their method of voting in order that the section of the Federal Constitution on automatic ratification may be implemented; broadcasts of Federal matters from Divisional stations shall be made only on the authority of Federal Executive or the Federal Council or of the Division. In this regard it was recommended from the Federal Council that any Division receiving prior information should without delay forward the matter to the Federal Executive for immediate action. The Federal Council continue its enquiries in connection with the name "Royal" for the Wireless Institute of Australia. A special per-capita levy of ... per member be made on Divisions to establish a working fund for Federal Executive administrative obligations. The P.M.G's. Department be approached with a view to obtaining a mobile license as distinct from a portable license. That in future contests rules should provide that the logs of VK contestants be sent to appropriate State Divisional Councils so that Federal Executive may be advised as to their being financial or otherwise. That an approach be made to I.A.R.U. with a view to evolving an international numbering system for DX contests, pointing out the advantages of the VK system. That W.I.A. provide funds for a perpetual trophy for the Remembrance Day Contest, and that, as soon as possible, F.E. forward suggestions to the Divisions as to the form that the trophy should take. In this regard Federal Executive would appreciate some constructive suggestions to enable them to arrive at a suitable decision. The distribution of certificates, awards, etc., be made by Divisional Federal Councillors at monthly Divisional meetings. That on the embossment of membership certificates of the W.I.A. the appropriate membership grade shall be indicated. In considering the uniform Divisional Constitution

DX C.C. LISTING

PHONE

Nil

C.W.

VK3CN ...	108 (3)
VK4FO ...	101 (7)

OPEN

VK4DI ...	116 (2)
VK3BZ ...	109 (5)
VK3MC ...	103 (6)
VK3BG ...	100 (4)

Three further applications are in hand awaiting checking from VK3KX, VK2ACX and VK4HR. Certificates are in the course of preparation for those listed above. Figures in parenthesis indicate the membership number to the DX C.C.

consideration be given to the inclusion of provisions to permit for the setting up of W.I.A. sub-branches under the auspices of the respective Divisions and based on the present zone boundaries.

The Federal Executive to draw up a budget of anticipated expenditure for the Convention and send to the various Divisions, three months before the Convention meets, requesting the pro-rata amount indicated to be remitted.

All items herein are subject to the ratification of the Divisions.

The Convention was relieved by the kindness of the Victorian Division in entertaining the visiting delegates and Federal Executive at a dinner and suitable evening entertainment for which the thanks of all those present is hereby extended.

AMENDMENTS TO CALL SIGNS

New Issues:—

VK2MW—A. E. Hay, 1544 Pacific Highway, Wahroonga, N.S.W.
2ALZ—V. J. Nugent, 47 Bayview St., Bexley.
2QI—C. Bowler, ... Castle St., Randwick (station on S.S. Iron Baron).
2UH—S. G. Hansen, University Hotel, Broadway, Sydney, N.S.W.
2XW—L. W. Cranch, 47 Russell St., Vaucluse.
VK3AGU—H. Chapman, portable of VK3GH.
3DY—R. M. Davis, Bardwood Ave., Dandenong.
3GH—G. R. Howard, 52 Esplanade, Brighton Beach, Victoria.
3GQ—E. R. Bourchier, 4 Chambers St., Footscray.
3IH—B. F. Cox, 17 Thames St., Northcote.
3RA—R. C. Greig, Daveys Bay Rd., Mount Eliza.
3TH—G. C. Morrison, "Ferndale," Yinnar, Vic.
3UY—S. Serpell, 12 Royal Cres., Camberwell.
VK4GB—G. S. Barr, Epsworth St., Wynnum Central, Qld.
VK5CF—W. G. Wilson, 6? Brown St., West Croydon, S.A.
5PL—J. B. White, 30 Amherst Ave., North Norwood, S.A.
VK6EB—E. L. Bradshaw, 57 Government Rd., Morley Park, W.A.
6FA—R. F. Ager, 815 Wellington St., Perth.

Alterations:—

VK2AP (in lieu of VK3APR)—A. P. Reynolds, 11 March St., Richmond, N.S.W.
2EZ—J. R. Magill, 87 Grand St., Bondi Beach.
2HF—J. A. Furze, 88 Beecroft Rd., Beecroft.
2HO—J. F. Mackel, 3? Longueville Rd., Lane Cove, N.S.W.
2LE—F. H. S. Lee, Burrell Point Rd., Dolans Bay, N.S.W.
2LO—C. S. Higgins, 27 M...son St., Wentworthville, N.S.W.
2MJ—A. J. T. Crisp, 29 Carrington St., Bexley.
2OU (in lieu of VK4LF)—A. S. Littlejohn, 158 James St., Leichhardt, N.S.W.
2OX (in lieu of VK6EX)—J. J. Mouat, 48 Milling St., Gladesville, N.S.W.
2XJ—F. W. Broome, 102 Griffiths Ave., Bankstown, N.S.W.
VK3ACF—A. C. Forbes, 18 St. Phillips St., Abbotsford, Victoria.
3ALL (in lieu of 7LL)—Dr. K. M. Kelly, Infectious Diseases Hosp..., Fairfield, Vic.
3DD—L. J. Meadows, 31 Stephen St., Hamilton.
3GH—G. Howard, 11 Grammar St., Ballarat.
3KG—K. L. Green, 52 Severn St., North Balwyn.
3QZ—J. G. Colley, 18 Chenhall Cres., Traralgon.
3TY—W. H. Murden, Rupanyup, Victoria.
3XF—L. R. McIntyre, 62 Chetwynd St., West Melbourne, Victoria.
3ZF—G. G. Coventry, 111 Emmaline St., Northcote, Victoria.
3ZY—W. F. Burgess, 7 Charnwood Cres., St. Kilda, Victoria.
VK4CR (in lieu of VK2ACD)—C. M. Carter, 56 Crescent Rd., Gympie, Qld.
4DS—D. S. Brown, Mirrabooka Rd., Ashgrove.
4EA—E. R. Ashton, Billinga, South Coast, Qld.
4MW—M. J. Walter, ... St., Brassall, Ipswich, Qld.
4SG—S. R. Graham, 74 ... St., Toowoomba, Qld.
4XY—... McGarry, c/o Mrs. Crawford, Swa... Rd., Taringa, Qld.
4YS (in lieu of VK2YS)—S. P. Sorenson, c/o Station 4CA, Cairns, Qld.
4ZZ—J. L. Kane, Dalgety St., Toowoomba, Qld.

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6LA—L. C. Allen, Cape St., Tuart Hill, W.A.
VK7NL—N. J. Lipscombe, 177 Invermay Rd., Launceston, Tas.
VK9GW—G. A. Warner, Paga Hill, Port Moresby, T.P.N.G.

Cancellations:—
VK3TM—A. H. Buck (deceased).
VK5LO—H. E. Looser

HAMS WHO LOST THEIR LIVES DUE TO SERVICE

VK2AJB—G. C. Churle	R.A.A.F.
VK2BQ—F. Easton	R.A.A.F.
VK2JV—C. D. Roberts	A.M.F.
VK2VJ—V. Jelvis	R.A.A.F.
VK2YK—W. Abbott	R.A.A.F.
VK3DQ—J. D. Morris	A.M.F.
VK3HN—J. McCandish	A.M.F.
VK3IE—J. E. Mann	R.A.N.
VK3NG—N. E. Gunter	M.N.
VK3OR—M. D. Orr	R.A.A.F.
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VK3PL—J. L. Colthrup	R.A.A.F.
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VK4DR—D. Laws	A.M.F.
VK4PR—R. Allen	R.A.A.F.
VK5AF—C. A. Ives	R.A.A.F.
VK5BW—G. Phillips	A.M.F.
VK5IE and VK5EM J. Mann	R.A.N.
VK6GR—A. H. G. Rippen	R.A.N.
VK6JQ—J. E. Goddard	R.A.A.F.
VK6KS—K. Anderson	A.M.F.

The above names and details have been received by Federal Executive. Anyone knowing of any name not included on the above list or errors therein should communicate with F.E. at the earliest.

FEDERAL QSL BUREAU

RAY JONES (VK3RJ), MANAGER

Jim Austin (VK6SA) is expecting to visit Melbourne for a couple of days during the middle of May. Previous to arriving in Melbourne Jim will have spent some time in Adelaide.

A nice card is that of RAEM, MM located aboard S.S. "George Sedov" presently located in Franz Joseph land. Among the "modest" claims of the operator Ernst Krenkel are 'Hero of the Soviet Union North Pole Expedition 1937-38," and "RAEM was the call of S.S. "Cheluskin" which was smashed by ice in the polar sea in 1934. I was there as Chief Operator and since then RAEM is my personal amateur call.'

A Christmas and New Year greeting belatedly received is that from Val of QR7VA. Val is one of those rare ones who QSLs 100 per cent.

The following is repeated for the benefit of QSL Managers and others who seldom read this column. "D. A. Leslie, ex-VR2UH, is no longer QSL Manager for Fiji and is now back in New Zealand." The QSL address for Fiji is VR2SA, Mr. S. H. Mayne, Victoria Parade, Fiji. The continued use of Mr. Leslie's old address is proving embarrassing and costly to Mr. Leslie, and is delaying cards unnecessarily.

Ex-VK7CM now signs G3BUD, and VR6AA is now holidaying in the north island of New Zealand with ZL2FR until the end of March.

An echo of a par some months ago regarding non-receipt of QSLs by Jimmy Dooley, then XU1VR, comes from Leith Cotton (VK6LG) who, incidentally, has just made W.A.C. Leith claims Jimmy must have received them and concludes, "I know a lot of Hams are too dumb, lazy or lousy to collect QSLs from Bureau for long periods, and then, when answering them, mark their cards 'Pse QSL' to cover their own remissness." You have sure hit the nail on the head Leith.

A fire broke out on the S.S. "Wairuna" whilst berthed at Vancouver. Whilst no details have yet been received, it is understood that only the prompt action of one of the members of the crew averted a major disaster. 'Tis hoped Jimmy G6UB/P and his 50 Mc. and other gear escaped damage.

'Twas a pleasure to hear again from Leon Paul (VK3XO, ex-VE3LP) whose ability to handle a bug has not suffered during his absence from the air.

Each time notes get scarce up pops Eric Trebilcock BERS195, of Wynyard, Tasmania, with an interesting budget of news. Eric, who is still confined to the ranks of listeners has the receiving end of the DX game well taped, having logged 172 countries and, if working 80 hours a week doesn't prevent it, hopes to win the Receiving Section of the 1948 BERU Contest. Eric supplies the following rare DX 'QTHs —

ZS9D—Box 14, Francistown, Bechuanaland.
W0OZW—U.S. Naval Station, Pago Pago, U.S. Samoa.
AR2LD—Beirut, Syria (QSL via A.R.R.L.)
CZ1A—Monaco (QSL via A.R.I. Milan)
VS9ET—Oman (QSL via R.S.G.B.)
VS9GT—Oman (QSL Signals R.A.F. Station, Sharjah B.E. Forces in Iraq)
MC1A (7MC)—Benghazi, Cyrenica (QSL via R.S.G.B.).
AP5B—Lahore, Sakistan (via R.S.G.B. or G3BS)
VQ2AT—A.P.O. 563, care P.M., New York City.

Thanks for your ever-welcome items Eric, and give away those long hours of duty for, as you say "Ben takes the lion's share."

W5-SWL Dick Russell, of 1735 S.O. Marsalis Ave., Dallas 16, Texas, U.S.A., makes an unusual request. He is desirous of receiving QSL cards from Short Wave Listeners in other countries. We wish him well.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The March monthly meeting was held on Thursday, 25th, with John Moyle (VK2JU) in the chair, and the business was to consider the Federal Convention agenda and to advise the Division's delegate as to his voting at the Convention. The fact that all 51 items were dealt with in one evening, instead of two or three meetings, as in some previous years, was undoubtedly due to John's able chairmanship, and to the spirit of the members present. The tendency to start petty arguments on minor and irrelevant points was noticeably absent, and no doubt John left for Melbourne on the following day with a clear idea of members' views on the matters before the Convention.

John Moyle was the N.S.W. delegate this year, as Jim Corbin, who has been our representative for several years past, was not able to undertake the task this year. Up until the time of the meeting, no one had volunteered for the position of observer, and an appeal was made to members to take a more active part in the running of the Division. As Peter Adams pointed out, the work involved in keeping the Division on an even keel has, for many years, fallen on the shoulders of a few enthusiastic members who have done yeoman service but who are growing older and, perhaps, a little tired; it is the hope of these men that younger Hams will come forward to take over the executive positions —President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Councillors. The position of Convention Delegate was the subject of remarks by both Jim Corbin and John Moyle — "In the past, the job has been taken on by any member who happened to be in Melbourne at Easter, and it is felt that this is not the best arrangement; ideally, the position should be filled by someone who is prepared to act as a Councillor for the following year."

As a parting shot, your scribe is again appealing for articles, technical and otherwise, for publication in "Amateur Radio." To date, the response has been nil!

SOUTH COAST AND TABLELANDS ZONE

2PI was heard on 7 Mc. c.w. Rig consists of 6V6 crystal, 807s in parallel with 60 watts input, receiver is a No. 11. Modulator is under way, using antenna left by 2VS. 2GU is QRL on 50 Mc. Has worked 2PN and 2TA on that band using a rotary beam. Heard working 2CM cross band 3.5/7 Mc. 2JQ (the Voice of Crookwell) heard often with good solid phone. Daughter Betty also interested in Ham Radio, believed to be delving into the technical side of things with A.O.C.P. as No. 1 priority. Monty was heard working VK1AA. 2AKE has been holidaying in City of Plains and was heard from 2NS and 2IE. Has hopes of a.c. to home QTH in three years. Class B mod. of type 46 valves, watts input, and Type A Mark 3 carries burden meanwhile. 2ALS is on most evenings. Has two complete stations. 6V6 to CV6, input 6 watts, AR8 receiver. Big rig uses 60 watts to 809. Has an AR7 and Bendix frequency meter also.

Had pleasure of staying one night with 2AIR. Cecil now in West Wyalong and runs two stage rig, 6V6 to pp 807s mod 807s, AR2, receiver AR8. Nice lot of DX worked and shack shows plenty of the hard-to-work by fact of the cards displayed. 2AFV also active using ATR13 with 813 final, modulated by 811s. Receiver is 7 tube super; Windom antenna and power generated by petrol driven engine. Is mostly QRL with brother Les, 7LT.

2OW is amongst the 7 Mc. boys using a No. 11, but he says ATV ready for something or other. Is pre war Ham interested mainly in c.w. 3VS at present QRL with b.c.l. work at Mudgee, relieving. Has gear operating on 50 and 144 Mc. Next tour will be Young where 2TA and 2TC are busy on 50 Mc. but little news regarding results to hand. 2PN heard occasionally on low frequencies but seems to keep to the quietness of 50 Mc. Like to hear more about you Ross. Wollongong possesses, I believe, an Amateur Radio Club and already four chappies are over the worries of A.O.C.P. 2MT is active and 2WV I believe is under way. 2OY heard for short period one night. Do believe you are likely to have some QRM from a new Ham very shortly. That's all chaps. Any news of your doing will help considerably.

NORTH COAST AND TABLELANDS

2OE bunding 3.5 Mc. rig for the winter, 807 p.a. 2FN home for Easter was heard on 7 Mc., gremlins took over rig during his absence. 2SH active

mostly on 7 Mc., getting some nice c.w. DX and fixing rig for 28 Mc. 2AEY running skeds with 2CW and should be on 50 Mc. shortly. 2DS won't be long now, also interested in 50 Mc. 2WC is another prospect for 50 Mc., at moment building all band receiver. 2ASF will be active soon with mighty QRP job, has worked all VK, ZL and VR2 with 1½ watts.

2JK is building new rig with 813 final. Leard testing on 7 Mc. and at [illegible] troubled with line noise. 2UN also with new outfit, on phone shortly. 2ZX at present in VK6 and absence noted on 7 Mc. 2NY building rotary for 28 Mc. 2GI and 2XO both on 3.5 Mc., the latter troubled with power line QRM, location power station (a.c. type). 2ZP occasional [illegible] on 7 Mc. 2ATS has new 40 foot "A" frame mast [illegible] 813 on 14 Mc. Notes to 2PA [illegible] Port Macquarie please.

NEWCASTLE AND DISTRICT

2BZ with two way work on 166 with Sydney and Singleton, congrats Dave, nice going. 2AHA has a fine W.A.C. on 12 Mc. in 50 minutes and 1?7 countries confirmed post war, they are in for a DX C.C. certificate. 2ZC has the coveted W.A.S. The above two are putting the [illegible] on the map. 2TF has over [illegible] countries and looking for more. 2AGD, 2ANG, 2AGX, 2FF and 2CW snap up any DX that shows through. The boys will be forming a radio club in Newcastle shortly.

COALFIELDS AND LAKES

2KF working 14 and 28 Mc., getting set up for 50 Mc., three element rotary on 28 Mc. 2KZ still battling for a 28 Mc. W.A.S. Vermont and Delaware [illegible]. 2YO nil activity. 2MK much the same, heard ones on 28 Mc. 2AT and 2PZ chewing on [illegible] Mc. What about those beams Bo! 2ADI keeps an eye on all Mc., getting started on 166 and adding a few countries to his [illegible] post war on 28 Mc. 2AI playing with 14 Mc. beams, on 28 and 14 Mc. and sometimes on [illegible] and [illegible] Mc. 2OK heard on 28 Mc. and looking for those VK6's on 50 Mc. 2RU on 50 and 166 Mc. 2AMU doing nice work on 28 Mc. with fine beam. 2AEZ DXing on 14 Mc. 2EH welcome to the fold. 2KB also known as 3000 hours Hardman. 2AIO not heard recently.

WESTERN ZONE

Conditions on 3.5 Mc. improving and by middle of winter should be good. A lot of old timers heard there nightly including 2JC, 2WH, 2RN, 2GJ, 2HG, 2CM, 2ND, 3WI and 4GG. 7 Mc. the main band for local rag chews, heard regularly are 2NS, 2II, 2IF, 2NS, 2JW and sometimes 2LZ. 14 Mc. is good for DX if you like it the hard way, battlers include 2FT, 2AMR, 2TG and 2HZ, also most of the Broken Hill gang. 28 Mc. is there for those that like DX the easy way. QRN nil, QRM little only and those active in the zone include after 20 years 2AFU on 14 Mc. and 2LY installed inside the house. 2FI migrated to 7 Mc. 2HZ has receiver going, but oscillating in wrong spots. 2ALR makes 50 Mc. occasionally and 2ACP had a thrill working OT 2JB on [illegible] Mc., the sum total of their ham radio days or years is about 70 years.

SOUTHERN ZONE

2ANQ (ex-3NQ) on air with p.p. 809s and looking for c.w. contacts on 7 Mc. 2APW with 3.1 amps into zepp feeders and 100 watts on 7 Mc. 2YS is a newcomer, should be active soon. 2QE threatens to be active again having new gear and using feather duster. 2OJ doing shack renovations and general cleaning up. Recent visitors include 2AGH, 3WQ, 3ARC, 2CP and 2AID. What about some news from [illegible]. 2EK trying to complete new house and shack. 2JA located amid town's QRM, we sympathise.

The following Wagga notes from 2TH. The iron curtain is lifted and Wagga again in news. 2AID has modified AT[illegible], worked XE on 7 Mc. [illegible] the best [illegible] we are waiting for the crash!! 2EH has moved [illegible] we hope to hear him from up Newcastle way. 2PJ congrats on a new first class comm. ticket [illegible] the grind is over, hope to hear him. 2GE also with a modified AT[illegible] on [illegible] but [illegible] there (no pride). 2BW, Wagga's G.P.F. (gauh philosopher and friend) always [illegible] with locals, has a nice post war DX record too mostly on 28 Mc. 2TH in process of giving shack a new look, has a Marconi B28 and would like the loan of an instruction book, any offers. The following is his solution of the XYL problem: Roy offers a cash bonus to the YF for each new country worked, hope he never works an OX, it's worth £10. 2ANT temporarily QRT pending installation of a [illegible] transformer, busy also at the Aeradio Station. 2AFM a new one to Wagga. Ron has been testing on [illegible] Mc. transmitter is AT[illegible], and receiver a Bendix RA12.

VICTORIA

Members of the Victorian Division in attendance at the March general meeting were fortunate in having the pleasure of meeting Mr Ted McCarthy (VK1AA) and Leading Telegraphist Skinner, of the Wyatt Earp which recently returned from the National Antarctic Expedition.

Mr Ted McCarthy was called upon, after introduction, to recount some of his experiences during the expedition and after pointing out the difficulties of operating on the Amateur bands from the vessel expressed pleasure of the contacts made. Some impressions from the scientific angle, a particular reference to Icebergs and Icefloes, proved of intense interest to his audience.

An interesting sidelight was a preview to members of the QSL card with which Mr McCarthy will confirm his contacts, the card being attractively printed with the crest of the Wyatt Earp in full color and will, without doubt, be a fine record of contact with a voyage of National interest.

In the President's absence on holidays over the Easter period, Mr Harry Kinnear (VK3KN) took the chair to another fully crowded meeting and was happy to welcome and introduce other [illegible] also in Mr John Moyle (VK2JU), visiting from N.S.W., and Mr "Lake" Lucas (VK5LL) over from S.A.

Much enthusiasm has been shown at recent meetings of suggestions re the holding of more social gatherings throughout the year and the formation of a Social Activities Committee was felt to be desirable to organise such dates. Two members, Mr. L. Moncur (3LN) and Mr. R. Henderson (3ARV), were nominated and accepted for this Committee and have power to co-opt.

Mr. Glover, reporting on T.A.C. activities, outlined the progress of the new installations to the Laboratory at the Institute rooms and also put forward the invitation for willing helpers to further assist in completion of this project. It was announced by Mr. Glover also that the installation of two sets of transmitting apparatus was planned for covering other bands as well as the present frequency in use.

The QSL officer has expressed his appreciation of the co-operation of members in collating their cards before handing in for disposal as this facilitates the handling and distribution of the many hundreds received.

T.A.C MEETING NIGHTS

It is noted that the Technical Advisory Committee of the Victorian Division of the W.I.A. hold meetings at the Institute Rooms at 191 Queen Street, Melbourne regularly throughout the month.

All members and visitors are cordially invited and welcome to attend these meetings at which many technical discussions and demonstrations take place. Meeting nights are as follows:—

1st Tuesday: Practical Work.
2nd Wednesday: V.H.F. Group.
3rd Tuesday: T.A.C. General Meeting.
4th Tuesday: Practical Work.
4th Wednesday: Receiver Group.
5th Tuesday: Practical Work.

VK3WI will announce the program for these individual meetings in forthcoming broadcasts.

T.A.C. ACTIVITIES

V.H.F. Group. Reports on the field day, held on the 7th March, were presented and discussed. The main business of the meeting, a discussion on V.H.F. Antennae, was then proceeded with. Of particular interest were problems connected with maintaining the directiveness of a directive antenna over the whole of the frequency range of the 50 Mc. band.

T.A.C. General Meeting.—Among other business dealt with was the approval for the purchase of the following books for addition to the lending library:

Frequency Modulation Engineering—Tibbs.

Radio Tele Vacuum [illegible]—Brans.

The library receives regularly radio periodicals published in foreign languages. Much of the information in these journals would be suitable for re-publication in "Amateur Radio." Those Amateurs who have sufficient knowledge of Dutch, Spanish, Italian or other languages and could prepare brief abstracts of technical or general articles should, if available for this work, contact T.A.C.

Practical work at present being carried out by T.A.C. includes the construction of a Laboratory Workbench with facilities for a wide range of tests. Members willing to assist in this work will be very welcome.

EASTERN ZONE

The Eastern Zone Hook up is now on a spot frequency of 3650 Kc. on Sundays at 2000 hours, so Eastern Zone stations roll up and make it still bigger. 3WE is punching nearly on 100 watts. Bill says that now the cold weather is approaching, he is going remote control by the fireside for the coming months. 3QZ is very busy settling down in

his new QTH; has been on from the main rig. 3SS putting out f.b. sigs on 7 and 3.5 Mc. since putting up new sky wire. 3AJL on holidays, and working portable with converted FS6. Jack puts out f.b. sigs. 3AHK is QRL on farm, but does not keep him from the DX bug, nice work Ossie.

3LA works ZL's with his low power. Len also does quite a lot of listening on 50 Mc. 3PR puts out S8 and 9 sigs with a Type A Mark III, cathode mod. with a 807. Ron busy on 6 Mc rig. 3AKU put in his first appearance in the hook up, keep it up Martin. 3AEP very active on 3.5 Mc., and has got a receiver going on 50 Mc. 3CI has been very active on 50 Mc. Syd goes portable and frequently works VK7's. 3LS and 3YL are both very active on the 50 Mc. band. Both Gwen and Rex are getting some nice DX on 28 Mc. 3HZ although very QRL, it does not stop him putting out f.b. sigs on 50 Mc. Murray also manages to get into the Zone hook up. 3DI active on 50 Mc. also. Jim has just erected a 3 element beam for that band.

CENTRAL WESTERN ZONE

Had a very interesting letter from 3FA, a week or two ago. Brian had been reported on approximately 4720 Kc. around Melbourne way, and as he operated on 14 Mc. only at the time, smelt a rat somewhere. The trouble turned out to be a 1½ wave length 7 Mc. receiving antenna which was rather close to the transmitting antenna. The feeders had broken off close during a windy spell and left the wire free. The wire resonated at approximately the third overtone of the 14 Mc. rig and went off merrily on its own. Brian found it was absorbing about half his power, and at the same time he was not getting out as usual on 14 Mc. The moral of this of course is for the boys with multi-antenna set-ups to be careful, as nobody was more surprised than 3FA when I rang him up.

Round the Zone there has been an outbreak of v.f.o-itis. 3AKP and 3DP have both just installed v.f.o's, and as Jim remarked, ceased to be rock bound; just stay inside the band boys. 3DP also has a [illegible] headache with a AR8 receiver just to hand, spent four hours the other night re-wiring the filaments for 12 volt operation. 3HL is still keeping a [illegible] will tower for a 14 Mc. beam. The tower is [illegible] for the antenna. [illegible] QRM [illegible] will stand.

Like 3YW, 3ATR was bitten by 50 Mc. bug. He has made up a [illegible], 6J6, 954 converter, heard nothing, put in 28 Mc. coils, and heard lots. [illegible] is putting together a 28 Mc. transmitter, and V beam. [illegible] also moving the gear out to the farm to get away from the line noises in Warracknabeal.

The hook-up on Sunday morning, 11th April, went off as well as 7 Mc. would permit. We were pleased to welcome VK3XC into the hook-up for the first time, and hope to hear him quite often. Ben also reported a newcomer to the Zone, 3ARM, of Serviceton, who hopes to be going at least in time for the next Zone hook-up. We now have a station at our extreme Western boundary, and will be pleased to contact you o.m. Another newcomer was VK3WQ, from Melbourne, who had a busy time.

[illegible] gang [illegible] are asked to keep in touch with their secretary as Melbourne is planning a special distribution of disposal items not normally on the screeds, so keep in touch chaps. Don't forget the next hook up on Sunday, 9th May, [illegible] a.m., 7050 Kc. In case the band is a washout, listen for 3YW on 3.5 Mc., it's always good down there. 3YW's telephone number for information (if any) is Stawell 321 during working hours, otherwise 299.

QUEENSLAND

At the Council meeting held on the 10th April, the question of Student Classes was raised by Mr. Stevens, the Associate Members representative, and it was decided that the time was ripe for the reintroduction of classes. The position as has been explained before is dependent on the Institute acquiring a permanent room, and in this direction a gleam of hope has arisen, and next month we hope to be able to tell you the good news—we hope. In any case, it is felt that Code Classes can be managed under existing conditions, and accordingly they will be started the first Friday after the next general meeting which falls on the 30th April. Theory instruction will be instituted as soon as conditions permit, and in this connection we would be pleased to hear from any members willing to undertake the position of Instructor. The position will be advertised in due course, but there may be someone in our ranks who would be happy to take the job on. The task is NOT a voluntary one, if that's any incentive!

The new Council has settled down to its job with a smoothness that augurs well for the future. Finance is in the capable hands of Harold Hansen (4SV), who, by reason of the thrift already shown is surely descended from that thrifty race the Scots—or am I sticking my neck out? The only member of the gang who is somewhat unhappy about his job is the Librarian. Bill (4WF) has very good reasons to be this way however, as the co-operation from the majority of members has been conspicuous by its absence. The Zone system of distribution of magazines has been a dismal failure, despite the conscientious efforts of the Zone managers concerned. When, and only when the books already out are returned the scheme will start afresh. We have no desire to conceal the fact that the Library is at present not worth the effort and if the hoped for response is not forthcoming the whole caboodle will be abolished, despite the screams from the inevitable minority, who are probably the offenders. More plain talk—I'll lose my neck yet but there it is [illegible] send them back or else.

The disposal equipment secured for members at the sale held in March has been moving off fairly rapidly, the [illegible] Command receivers, notably of 6-9 Mc range and also of the same type of transmitters. One particularly good buy in the opinion of your scribe is the ARR2 receiver, which, although fairly useless in itself, contains an assortment of really good tubes, namely three 6AK5s and half a dozen 9001s and a 12A6, besides a useful handful of resistors, etc., which contrary to most of the aircraft gear, can be lifted out without being gymnastics with the soldering iron. At the time of writing [illegible] and Command transmitters are still in fair supply.

Delegate 4FN returned from the Convention in one piece, despite the fact that swords were crossed once or twice between Frank and the big bad wolves in the South. A special meeting of Council will deal with the reams of literature which Frank has brought back from the Conference table. Council sat until 11.15 p.m. last Friday dealing with routine business and no one then felt very enthusiastic about anything starting with "C" excepting possibly coffee so a special meeting was convened for the following Friday.

In common with the sentiment in other Divisions Queensland was surprised to learn of the extinction of "Gremlin" and widespread approval has already been expressed regarding his re-appearance. "Gremlin" might do well to pay particular attention to the habit of some fellows in using their calls as an aid to business ends—sticky ends we hope to the offenders. You have probably seen the letter from the R.I. on the last page of April "A.R." If not have a look right now. It's not only yourself that might get into trouble but the practice is bringing discredit on Hams in general.

Last year some bright spark (and we're not being funny) thought of the idea that the VK4 Division should run a stall or Exhibit at the Annual Royal National Show. Time was too short to do anything about it then, and the spark was extinguished [illegible] we thought, but it's been blown into life again—some spark! Council thus proceeded to try and kindle the flame. I hereby place the old neck on the block for the final blow, and blatantly announce that it can't be did! To revert to the style befitting of a Sub-Editor—ahem—it is a fact that the question was explored very thoroughly, and it became obvious after hearing of the experiences and difficulties befalling business enterprises with the same idea, that it was not practical for this Division to run an Exhibit much as we would wish to. Rent is colossal, electrical installations cost lots of dough, and then there's the small matter of staff. The only way would be to know somebody, and we don't know a soul.

The Field Day bug has bitten a few of the boys and what with balmy winter sunshine and all that we thought it was about time we had another. When 144 Mc. poked its head up it looked as good an excuse as any, so the event was set down for the first week-end in May when the band becomes officially ours. Although a v.h.f. set up was at first proposed (it's a funny thing but Council always seems to consist of v.h.f. blokes), the thing has been widened in scope to include the "d.c." bands as well. For the benefit of the ignorant, "d.c." bands are low frequency bands. Details are pointless as the show will be over by the time you read this, but trophies of some sort will be awarded for the best performances on 50, 144 and the combined low-frequency bands. Times of operation are to be 1600 hours Saturday, 1st May, to 1600 hours, 2nd May. If the wide interest already shown is any criterion, everyone will have a grand time. Amongst those going out will be 4DK (4CU) to Mt. Kynock, Toowoomba; 4KP to Pt. Danger or Springbrook, whilst 4ZU and 4KG are going to the Maleny Range.

The gang are quite enthusiastic in their comments on the new Membership and Contest Certificates, samples of which have arrived. Congratulations to those responsible for the adoption of such a fine design and selection of colour. We feel sure you will all be proud to have these for wall paper, and at the moment all we can tell you is that enough have been printed to cater for all requirements, and distribution is proceeding.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The notes this month are prefaced with an apology for their lack of quality and quantity. The reason being that I have been on annual leave and naturally left the notes until the last day or so. All would have been well, however, had not fate

conspired to send to Adelaide and its suburbs a first-class hurricane, something unprecedented in the history of South Australia. The consequent damage to amateur shacks, equipment, aerials, etc., to say nothing of the interruptions to transport, communications, and public utilities has left everybody feeling like a limp rag. The seafront naturally felt the full strength of the blow, and we here at Henley Beach have had no electric light for three nights. I have been washed out of my shack, and believe it or not, in this year of our Lord 1948, I am attempting to write these notes beneath the feeble glimmer of a hurricane lamp.

To fill my cup of bitterness to the brim, I have just been informed that Mrs. Barbier (the XYL of 5MD) is looking for my blood for writing a paragraph regarding the dirty dishes in the sink upon her return from hospital. This has cut me to the quick and I hasten to apologise, and to say publicly that I have checked up on my source of information and I find that the said paragraph was indeed a libel, and I offer my sincere apologies. I find that the kitchen sink was definitely not full of dirty dishes as there was still room for a cup and saucer! Having now, I feel sure, been restored to Mrs. Barbier's good books by my abject apology, I can attempt the compilation of these notes with an easy conscience, so here goes.

The monthly general meeting for April was held at 17 Weymouth Street to a capacity gathering when Mr. W. O. Gubberd gave a very interesting and instructive lecture on "Carrier Transmission." The lecture was very well received and a vote of thanks, proposed by Dr Ross Avery (5AJ), was received with acclamation by all present. Among the visitors were Messrs. Opie, George, Turner, R. Torrington (5TJ), J. D. Nourse (2DQ), and Graham Pitts (5GP).

Ross Harris (5FL) spoke on disposal matters and Hal Austin (5AW) discussed the recent conference held in Melbourne. The meeting was then closed with everybody having spent an interesting evening.

Reg Harris (5RR), who has been handling 5WI so capably, tendered his resignation from 5WI which was accepted with regret, and in future Hal. Austin (5AW) will be in charge of the W.I.A. Sunday broadcasts from his QTH at Rose Park.

Reports of the hurricane damage to aerials continue to come in and the latest list shows that 5MO, 5RX, 5RR, 5XQ, 5LD, 5AJ and 5LW are a few of the Hams minus a skywire.

A Navy Frigate, the "Barcoo" was washed ashore during the aforementioned hurricane and finished up a mile or so from the QTH of 5PS. I wish to deny the rumour started by 5LW that 5PS was chased up the beach for a couple of miles by an irate signalman from the "Barcoo" because he tried to talk the said signalman into selling the radio gear aboard as disposal equipment.

Noticed that Cec Baseby (5BZ) was absent from the general meeting, apparently was stoking up the water cooled job preparatory for a session of DX. 'Tis rumoured that he has joined the ranks of the truck drivers on the road between Melbourne and Adelaide and is known as "Battler" Baseby to his confreres of the road. With a smile on his lips and a curse in his heart, he lets nothing pass him and always gets his truck in on time.

George Ramsay (5GD) is reported on the sick list with a very heavy cold, in fact at one period complications were feared. Is on the road to recovery now I hear, and probably next time he adjusts his beam in the cold chilly air he will remember this bout of sickness!

Joe McAllister's enthusiasm for the W.I.A. led him to rise at 4 a.m. on Sunday, 14th March, with the intention of visiting the local Hams at Kadina and passing on the Institute good wishes. Leaving at 5.15 a.m. Joe, the XYL and the harmonics had a very pleasant trip in the brisk morning, and as there was no desperate hurry, the time of arrival was set so as to hear the 5WI broadcast. The first call was to Darcy Hancock (5RJ), but a notice on the back door "no milk today thanks" told its own story. Anyway, after making a few enquiries, the abode of Les Waldridge (5UX) was found and fortunately just in time to catch 5UX, plus Darcy himself and his XYL about to depart in the trusty van. Joe was right royally welcomed and over a cup of tea it was suggested that as there was a bit of a do over at Crystal Brook, what about all going over and meeting the other Hams. Having listened on the "5UX" receiver and not heard any VK5 signals, the party started for Crystal Brook.

The first indication of "OB" was the huge aerial mast of 5CK (one of those common broadcasting stations). Passing through the town the party came to the creek bed, near the showgrounds and found a party of Hams gathered, including Len Muller (5VM), C. A. Doddridge (5OD), H. Hodgson (5AP), and quite a number of unidentified personalities. What with YLs, XYLs, harmonics, and visitors it was a grand gathering, and lunch took a long time because it is hard to talk and eat too. Joe passed on all the Adelaide gossip, and made a note of all the country doings (for which I thank him). Len Muller (5VM) took a photo of the gathering with his huge camera (tripod, red cloth and all) giving quite a toreador act with the red cloth, with the evident idea of making the gang look pleased. How successful he was we will only know if we see a photo, so what about it Len?

The next visit was to 5OK to look over the various interesting pieces of equipment installed there. Then the party went to the shack of 5VM and Len has a fine set-up, rack and panel style, but what intrigued everybody so much was a complete shower over the rig. Apparently Len was in such a hurry to get on the air that he forget to dismantle the bathroom. Anyway it makes an extra good water cooling system (5BZ please note). The day was now drawing to a close and Joe was amazed to note how the time had flown. A little trouble with the petrol feed delayed the departure, but some soap and a little rag soon fixed it up OK. The lights of the city were sighted about 12 30 a.m. and some 21 hours had passed by in an incredible short time. Joe and his XYL, plus the harmonics, wish to thank all the folk who helped to make the day such a happy one, and they all hope that it will not be long before they all meet again. The fact that Joe set out to do a trip of 150 miles and finished up doing 200 miles speaks for itself. The benefit to the W.I.A. was enormous, as it shows the country member that he means as much to the Institute as anybody else, and Joe is to be congratulated on his foresight and enthusiasm.

A new receiver is under construction at 5RJ although if the conditions are always as bad as they were on 14th March, more than a new receiver will be wanted to pick up any VK5 signals. Stop Press—According to reliable information two or three magnetic storms in parallel were centred around Kadina that day. No wonder conditions were bad.

Have heard a rumour that Roy Cook (5AC) is due back on the air shortly. Roy is one of the real old-timers, and we all hope that the rumour is correct. Haven't seen you at the meetings lately o.m., what about it?

5FL has a new c.r.o. hooked on to his receiver and this, plus his Bendix frequency meter, enables him to hold all the trump cards when it comes to honest reports, etc. Some of the Hams take the advice well and others don't. The don'ts are passing rude remarks about the 5FL hack wave. Personally I am neutral.

No doubt about these school teachers, everything must be so exact, or else. Heard 5BY and 5XU in contact the other night and after Dougal had given Gordon his report three times, Gordon asked him again and Dougal finished up spelling it, SEVEN. Then and then only was 5XU satisfied.

The Police Commissioner has acknowledged by letter his appreciation of the splendid assistance rendered by Amateur Radio as a means of communication during the recent bushfires in S.A. Ross Kelly (5LW) was the recipient of the letter (his second by the way) but Ham Radio also secured some useful publicity, and our thanks are due to Ross and "Doc" (5MD) for their fine job.

5BQ is in the process of constructing a 144 Mc. transceiver and as his QTH is Somerton, he will be welcomed by the northern suburban boys as a choice bit of DX.

5LR is looking for a cheap windmill tower so as to be able to lift his present temporary 28 Mc. signal squirter higher in the air. It is doing such a good job almost on the ground that Jack is wondering just how many db. points above S9 he will get when it does rise into the air. Anybody able to give some information as to the availability of a cheap tower.

It is not often that a nickname becomes a fact, but "Pop" Deane is the exception that proves the rule. The name "Pop" came from the fact that Launce (5LD) once upon a time had a voice as low

in pic as that noted film character 'Popeye' the sailor man. The arriva of a harmonic (a bonny bouncing boy) to the 5LD domain makes the "Pop" quite an order. Congratulations to Mr and Mrs. Deane. By the way it was just a coincidence that 'Pop" parked his car next to 5XU at the recent field day. (Sorry Gordon but it was too good to let pass.)

You all thought that I had forgotten "Doc" didn't you? Well I haven't. I believe that he is using too much brush handed for feeder spreaders. Take my advice and lock your bathroom doors should he visit you, and don't fall for that sales talk he will give you about that "so and so look," "such and such smile," it is only meant to get you to discard your tooth brush in favour of a new one, thereby permitting him to "bite" you for the old one.

General opinion regarding the "Gremlin" in VK3 is that whilst it is the business entirely of the VK3 Council to handle the matter as they think fit it is generally thought that a mistake has been made. "Gremlin" was doing a good job and it was better that he remained anonymous and the opinion of a few thin-skinned Hams should not be allowed to sway the VK3 Council's better judgment. With the present influx of "funny" boys into Amateur Radio something in the nature of "Gremlin" is required.

To anyone who has attended any meetings or club gatherings where amateurs get together and "rag chew" quite informally, it is becoming increasingly noticeable that the present methods existing at W.I.A. meetings are falling into disfavour. I refer to the "introduction," "lecture," "general business," and then a few minutes for a get together before leaving for home. Whether we like it or not, the audience at a W.I.A. meeting is divided into two classes. Those who know as much about the subject as the lecturer and therefore are not interested and those who do not understand the lecturer and therefore are also not interested. The remaining few who are interested are in such a minority that they do not count. This does not hold for all lectures, now and again we get one out of the box and everyone is more than interested, but it is becoming an obvious fact that if we are to hold members interest at W.I.A. meetings we must give them more time to have an informal rag chew, more time to get together and make each others acquaintance, in short, make the meeting less as a gathering of Open Days of Radio Engineering (I.R.E. please note) and more like the gatherings which take place in the average main stack.

What's that you say, how can we do it? Don't ask me, brother, I only write the notes! Seriously though gang, haven't I got 'something.' If you don't ask so tell me, I can take it, but if you do ask, then get up on your feet and tell Council members at the next general meeting Council is only there to, carry out the wishes of members, but if you don't state your wishes on the floor of the meeting how can the Council carry them out. They are not mind readers as yet.

I had the pleasure this month of attending the Inaugural meeting of the Hobart Bay Radio Club, held at the Glenelg Town Hall. When I first arrived at the Town Hall there was a steady stream of people all making for upstairs, and I followed them like a lamb, mentally telling myself that these Glenelg Amateurs certainly knew how to attract a crowd. Imagine my surprise upon arriving upstairs to find that I had come upon an anti-aircraft meeting about to commence. Somewhat embarrassed I crept downstairs, followed by about 700 pairs of eyes all convinced that one "rummo" at least had the "wind up." I retired to the rear of the building and there came upon a chap with a "QST" in his hand also looking a bit bewildered. He introduced himself to me as 5RS and said amiably, 'I say old man you're Doc Barbier aren't you?' The look of homicidal mania that appeared on my face apparently staggered him, because he stepped back a few paces and said in an apologetic tone of voice, "I'm sorry old man, but you do look a bit like him.' In a tone of voice that I use when handling ruglag lions, fierce tigers or

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H2.F P

perhaps my wife, I introduced myself and was somewhat mollified to have him say, "Oh yes, I know you, you're the old buffer who writes that tripe for the Magazine." I regained my lost temper at this charming flattery and we both adjourned to the room at the rear of the hall, which by now was a blaze of light.

Among those present I recognised were 5CB, 5AF, 5JE, 5RS, 5PX, 5BW, 5WK, 5FR, 5ZR, 5XO and 5PS. Charlie Brimble (5CB) was elected President and Ted Cawthron (5JE) was Secretary. Being the first meeting of the Club naturally a good deal of preliminary business had to be completed, and when I left at 10.15 p.m. to catch a bus nothing definite had been arrived at. One thing however stood out, and that was that the club was not to be a break away from the W.I.A., but was purely an endeavour on the part of an enthusiastic gang of Hams to try and give to Amateurs as a whole a place to meet informally, form discussion groups, help would-be Hams along the hard road to a ticket, have a little social gathering occasionally, and all in all provide that friendly atmosphere which they all definitely agreed was unfortunately lacking at a W.I.A. monthly meeting.

I took a little of their time to explain that whilst I was in sympathy with their aims, it was extremely difficult to achieve the results they were seeking at a W.I.A. meeting. Nevertheless I wished them luck and promised that any publicity or help that the W.I.A. could give, would be willingly offered and if enthusiasm counts for anything, then the Holdfast Bay Radio Club is in for a very happy and successful time.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The April meeting was held at the Builders' Exchange, 66 St. George's Terrace, on the 12th. There were over 60 members present and a cordial welcome was extended to two new members, VK6AW and VK6NW. G3BMV was a special visitor.

Mr. G. Moss gave information on the W.I.A. Convention held during Easter in VK3. All but two of the VK6 suggestions were approved. We are very grateful to VK6GM, for the manner in which he represented the VK6 Division and hope to see him occupy the same position again.

"Gremlin" was discussed to some measure by the meeting. Such a division of opinion existed that VK6KW suggested a poll be made of VK6 members as to the general feeling of Amateurs in this State, and to convey this view to Federal Council. The motion was approved and the outcome will be known by the next meeting in May.

A transmitter has been bought by the Division and will be put into commission as VK6WI to do the W.I.A. broadcasts on Saturdays and Sundays. Its installation will be at the QTH of a Council member who will make the broadcast, and so make his own rig quite independent, and re-builds will have no time restrictions.

At the conclusion of general business, Mr. W. Peterson (6LW) gave some interesting facts and figures on v.h.f. antennae. His remarks dealt mainly with corner-reflectors, their advantages and adaptability to v.h.f. equipment—particularly the SCR522.

Mr. Coxon (6AG) gave an instructive demonstration on the loading effect of parasitic elements on the driven element in multi-element directive antenna arrays. This demonstration was the ideal "follow-on" after 6LW's more theoretical approach to the subject.

Mr. Hugo (6KW) and Mr. Rumble (6RU) went to considerable trouble to demonstrate the SCR522 modified for use on the new 144 Mc. band. The two complete units were set up in the room, and a f.b. two-way QSO was the result. Many 522 owners were interested in this informative demo. It is a pity 6KW burned out that new meter!

Mention was made on the commendable effort made by 6FA in working regular skeds with the Heard Island Expedition—Antarctica. VK3ACD has been heard on 7 Mc. but his five watts are very often badly QRMed. VK3OY hopes to be running 50 watts input before long now.

6WT has taken over the duties of Sub-Editor for "A.R.," and would appreciate ideas for the compiling of these notes.

PERSONALITIES

6FA heads the list with his contacts with Heard Island Expedition. Nice work Dick. 6OA is heard talking about 28 Mc. beams. All the gear is on the ground and waiting to be tossed into the air. 6YZ, another member of the Carlisle gang, is running close on 100 watts and uses his v.f.o. carefully. 6HS has big ideas in mind, including some DX demonstrations from 6DJ who shows anyone just how easy it is to work c.w. DX. 6SA will be visiting VK3 and VK5 soon and will be "full bottle" when he returns. What's the latest Jim? 6SN has been quiet lately, but has worked some nice 14 Mc. phone DX. Want a new antenna Alf? 6RU has not had the rig on the air for a whole week. What's happened Jim? 6JW brought VK2VC around the shacks to show them off. Vin likes our weather better!! 6MY is on holidays but we heard a signal 30 db. over S9 last Sunday. What is it Mal? 6AG has disposed of the W.I.A. SCR522s and did some f.b. work with circuit diagrams. Wally is glad the Class "C" Wavemeters have their circuits under the lid. 6ND has perked up the rig and she sounds very nice now Neville. That trip to Geraldton must have done it.

6WZ, we haven't heard Harry lately. His new Club must be keeping him bush up there. 6EL heard of a week-end of 7 Mc. On other bands it's only the DX stations that hear Ernie. 6CN with the "Geraldton Kilowatt" (6V6 p.a.) is coming to Perth on a holiday with 6EL. Will be looking forward to meeting you Cyril. 6WI has got the idea of rhombic antennae and works Chagos Islands just to show it works. How many countries now Ray? 6JB is formulating antenna ideas and we hope to hear Allan more often before long. 6RT, have not heard Len for ages. What's cooking Len? 6FB at Mullewa still persevering to work Interstate on 50 Mc.

6DX back on the job again after a visit to VK3. 6FD is heard more frequently again now. Joe must have been too shy to do much operating while 6DX was away. 6WG and 6HT heard regularly in Perth, but they don't say much about their activities down there in Albany. 6CM works nice DX on 28 Mc. It must be getting over the back fence Bill. 6FL and 6HL work those new South Americans easily. Shows what good beams can do. 6WH still has the usual f.b. signal on 7 Mc. Ted is thinking about 50 Mc. too, and wills 14 and 28 Mc. to the DX hounds.

6AK hasn't been heard lately. Maybe the portable is going rack and panel style.

DX OF MARCH BY VK6RU

Both bands during the past month have settled down to more consistent habits and on the whole 28 Mc. has been better than the few preceding months have shown. 14 Mc. was somewhat spasmodic later in the month, but nevertheless some good QSOs resulted.

With winter near at hand, daylight operation on 28 Mc. is more evident, particularly close skip operation, and it's nothing to hear the VK2s, VK3s, etc., romping in up to as late as 1000 hours daily and later.

28 Mc. Phone, Europe.—This continent as usual has provided most of the DX and usually the Gs have been most dependable and are always there at the right time. The number worked from the old country being too numerous to mention. The rest of the Europeans worked were GM2VA, 3XB, Scotland; GW4CC, 2RH, Wales; I1HV, 1BI, Italy; SM3ZF, 5VW, 5PR, 5PL, Sweden; EI8J, Eire; F8PA, 8AT, France; ZB1AC, Malta; PA0FB, 000, 0CB, Holland; OH2QF, Finland; LA4B, Norway; ON4VU, 4BQ, Belgium.

Africa.—The ZS signals have been in the majority amongst the Africans coming through and quite a few calls have been heard and worked this season. Some of these boys, who like getting up early on Sunday mornings their time, have been worked from here at 1300 hours (0700 South African time). The Union boys have also had a good time this last month working ZLs—their hardest country to work—just like South America from VK6! VQ2PYE, Tanganyika; MI3ZJ (ex-I6ZJ and latterly MI6ZJ) has put in an appearance and is very consistent; ZE1JH, 1JB, Southern Rhodesia, were two new ones added to my ZEs; ST2CH, Khartoum, was the only North African worked. It is believed that ZD4AH, Gold Coast, is more consistent on 28 Mc. now but so far he hasn't been located.

Asia.—One item of interest to hand is that Pakistan now has its own prefix, that being AP, and a few of these fellows are heard amongst the host of European signals. AP2D (ex-VU2QV) wishes his 73 passed on to all VK6s he had worked under the call of VU2QV. AR8AB, in Lebanon, on 28.5 Mc., is quite a good signal most week-ends—he QSLs every contact as I have three from him so far. HL1AQ was an interesting QSO from Korea. Apart from a number of Js worked, XZ2HN (Burma) was the only other contact.

North America.—With the W-VE phone test finishing in March, one didn't have to call CQ too often and quite a number were worked. The Canadians being VE7ACV, 7EL, 7NV, 6GI, 8BBI—the sixth district is very seldom heard here for some reason or other.

South America.—During Easter some nice signals were heard and worked; a few of them with S9 signals and no flutter. HC1FG, 1HM, 2OL, Ecuador, the former and latter being excellent QSOs. HK5CE, Colombia; YV1AV, Venezuela, being the other two countries worked.

Central America.—YN1EP and TG9JK in Nicaragua and Guatemala respectively were the only contacts with this area.

Oceana.—The ZLs have for most of the month had signals like locals in VK6 from early morning until late afternoon and many new QSOs have been made together with many old friends from this time last year. Two Hawaiians were worked in KH6LD and W6LKW/KH6.

14 Mc. Phone, Europe.—A few occasions late at night have produced some interesting QSOs with this continent, and also of an early morning quite a few stations have put in good signals. D4AYO, Germany, was one of the strongest signals heard this season and he made a really good contact. OZ6BW, Denmark; I1SZ, Italy (worked 0030 one morning); UB5KAG in Kiev, Ukraine, was my first Russian worked on phone and proved interesting; F8OC, France; ON4BC, Belgium; D2IU, British Zone in Germany, were the remainder worked.

Africa.—A few ZSs have put in an appearance in the later evenings; ZS3F providing a new country—I've been looking for a ZS3 for two years. ZS5DF, a YL operator, made a very interesting QSO. Others from this continent included VQ4KTH, Kenya; ZE2JK, Southern Rhodesia; ET3AE, Ethiopa; VQ8AE, Mauritius, and VQ8AB, Chagos Island (another welcome new country).

Asia.—There are still plenty of Asiatics around with the beam turned north particularly VS1, VS2, C, J, VU, XZ, etc. Three of note worked were ZC6JM, Palestine; AP4A, Pakistan, and VS9ET, Oman, on the South Eastern portion of the Arabian Peninsula.

North America.—We are getting more and more reliable during early and late evenings and during their recent contest many numbers were swapped during one week-end. A few Canadians were heard but none worked.

South America.—Only one contact—YV5AY, Venezuela.

Central America.—These chaps have been rare lately and the only two heard were both worked, XE1CQ, Mexico, and CO2BM, Cuba.

TASMANIA

Here is Tasmania once again with a summary of the doings for the last month or so. The April meeting was well attended and the report of our Convention delegate (7BJ) was received. Apparently the aforesaid conference was almost a marathon effort of chin wagging, however plenty of good work seems to have been accomplished.

Another field day is set down for the end of April and if the last muster is any indication it should be an f.b. affair. 7XA is scheduled to hide the transmitter. This will be the last field day for the season.

Now for some personalities. 7YY (Bill Watson) has departed from this fair isle for a warmer climate, to wit Wewak and was presented with a suitably inscribed pipe by this Division. We all look forward to hearing him back on the air under the call of 9YY. 7BJ has had his receiver in bits to incorporate band switching on a couple of bands. Had a look at 7AF the other night, he has a shack full of nice looking gear, floor racks and all the trimmings. 7SJ puts out some nice phone mainly on 7 Mc. 7RL and 7BB in the northern end of the island come in down here with plenty of punch and seem to be working plenty on 7 Mc. Heavens knows how with the mess that is on 7 Mc. these days.

7OW and 7NC are mostly on the higher frequencies, they must have patience, those guys, waiting for 50 Mc. stuff to poke its way through a hole in the jolly old ether. Cec Wright (7LZ), our northern councillor has been in Hobart for a week or so and was present at our last Council meeting and general meeting. The Council meeting by the way, lasted from 8 until 12 p.m. with 7BJ holding the floor most of the time—must try and get him a nomination for the next parliamentary election.

We understand that 7LL, who is at present in Melbourne, has been put under the dog act as far as radio is concerned for the duration of his stay. What a sentence! Have heard a couple of new call signs in VK7 lately, must find out the names of the owners. The Institute in VK7 is going ahead by leaps and bounds, and it is hoped to bring the membership to 100 before the end of the current year. Now what about some of these call signs that are listed, yet one never hears? Well you chaps, how about a squeak out of your transmitters now and again?

The local A.O.C.P. class has about a dozen starters this year and all are keen, so it looks as though the QRM in Hobart is going to be something to cope with in the future—still, the more the merrier.

VK3PD, working portable in Hobart, seems to get among them on 7 Mc. and boy can that guy talk! On 7 Mc. one hears 7DW and 7LJ and a few more regular c.w. men, and if you chaps don't happen to know, more keys can be bought quite cheaply ex-army disposals.

NORTHERN ZONE

It was fortunate that 7LZ should be in Hobart at the time of the Council and general meetings particularly so as our able (and willing) Secretary had just returned from the annual Convention. A general outline of this Convention will be conveyed to all members in due course, possibly even before these notes are read, however, should any more information be desired by any member from this Zone, I will be only to glad to give them any more details if it is possible.

This again shows the advisability of having a periodical get-together to discuss items of mutual interest and I think that if enough interest were shown by individual members a meeting night—possibly once a month—could be arranged.

Mr. C. Cullinan of 7EX, an old Ham and a member of the I.R.E., has now made arrangements with their secretary whereas when any subject of interest to Amateurs is to be discussed at their meetings, this Zone will receive an invitation through our Councillor to attend such meetings. The first of these meetings to which we are invited takes the form of a picture night at which four films on television are to be screened. Unfortunately, time in this instance is too short for us to advise all members. This again reminds us of the benefits derived from meetings.

My knowledge of the individual doings are practically nil owing to my visit to Hobart. However I have heard 7RK on the air using his new Franklin v.f.o. and it certainly sounds as though Ray has produced the goods. Also saw 7BQ in the warehouse today so I'll have to make a call on Len and see what's coming up. 7GD was lucky enough to snag VK1AA while Ted was at Macquarie Island. I also QSOed Ted and when he gave me his location I went to the door of the shack and waved to him. I'm afraid this concludes the doings for this month, however if any member not mentioned will advise me as to when he is likely to have a bottle in the cupboard, I will definitely arrange a personal contact so that said member may receive full publicity in due course.

CORRESPONDENCE

Box 52, Leongatha.

Editor, "A.R.,"

It is with pleasure that I note that "Gremlin" is returning to "A.R.," and it is to be hoped that his remarks in future issues will have the desired effect of clearing up some of the rotten sigs and operating heard on the "Ham" bands, particularly 7 Mc.

The letter of Don Knock (VK2NO) in the April issue is worthy of consideration by every Ham in VK. Every evening one can hear nothing but bedlam on this band (7 Mc.) and it is time something was done about it. I think if phone was prohibited on this band after 1000 hours, either by regulation or as suggested by VK2NO, a gentlemen's agreement, plenty of good contacts could be made on c.w.

For those who must rag chew to their neighbours on phone, and in addition put the XYL and all the family on, why not use 50 Mc.? This band appears to be excellent for local QSOs, while the 3.5 Mc. band could also be used. As one who uses the 3.5 Mc. band regularly, I can state that 5 to 10 watts is sufficient for interstate and ZL contacts. B.C.I. QRM can be cut out with efficient adjustment of the gear with low power. Here is hoping for less QRM on 7 Mc. and more use being made of 50 and 3.5 Mc. bands.

Before I conclude may I make one suggestion for the Mag. and that is that it be of smaller size with more pages. The same size as "QST."

—W. R. JARDINE, VK3PR.

XZ2DA IS NOW G3DDN

15 Eynesbury Ave., Lower Mitcham, S.A.

Editor, "A.R.,"

The majority of VK Amateurs who were active on 28 Mc. during 1946/7 would, I think, have made contact with Basil Tait, XZ2DA. Basil returned to England some months ago, and in a letter received from him he advises me that he has been demobbed from the R.A.F. and is now licenced as G3DDN. He is operating for the time being on c.w. only, on frequencies of 14,020, 14,040, 14,080, 28,040, 28,080 and 28,160 Mc. He is very anxious to make contact with some of his VK friends, and has asked me to give all possible publicity to the above.

—I. THOMAS, VK5IT.

TEMPLATE FOR METER AND SOCKET HOLES

A handy template for setting up a circle cutter is suggested. Each time a hole is cut in prestwood or metal for mounting a large diameter part, such as a socket, meter or transformer, the circle removed from the material should be labelled and filed for future reference. A collection of metal and composition circles is thus soon obtained, from which one corresponding to the part to be mounted may be selected. In order to adjust the radius of the circle cutter, the circle is then slipped on the drill point of the cutter, and the tool is fitted to the edge of the circle and set. In this way, the time usually spent in setting up temporarily, and cutting trial holes is saved.—QST, June, 1938.

"GREMLIN"

Letters in reference to "Gremlin" expressing their desire for his continuance have been received from W. Burford (VK5PB), W. J. Hartley, J. Coulter (VK5JD), J. G. Halyday (VK4HZ), V. H. Wilson (VK2VW), F. H. Doherty (VK3XE), D. B. Knock (VK2NO), B. Ferguson (VK3FN).

THE MAGAZINE

P.O. Box 127, Geraldton, W.A.

Editor, "A.R.,"

Because I feel strongly about things I find myself, every now and again, sticking my neck out. And I feel an attack coming on right now.

First of all, the material and make-up of our Mag. Mostly f.b.—but inclined to be too abstruse at times. Articles about "making over" disposals equipment and about new overseas developments, practical designs of antennae, etc., are just what the doctor ordered. Those who want the pages of maths. can go subscribe to the Proc. of I.R.E., A.W.A. Technical Review and so on—they'll get more than they bargain for there!

There is nothing wrong about a man having radio for a hobby and for a living—but he should know where the borderline exists and endeavour to use Amateur Radio for learning about Amateur Radio—not his job as a technician. Otherwise he is selfish towards those for whom radio is only a hobby.

Was it a printer's error or did 3RJ actually mean that he won't put a transmitter on 50 Mc. till there's some c.w. to work? There should be c.w. (and m.c.w.) on 50—but to make a statement like that in print is to reveal the sort of old-timer's mentality that gives the new hand a picture of some ferocious old bigot who even talks to his wife and kids (if any) in dits and dahs. Let's have more tolerance from both phone and c.w. men, particularly some of the latter gentry who earn their living at P.M.G. keys and can't forget it even when pursuing their (and our) hobby. There's no need for some of these pre-1930 and pre-1925 blokes to imagine themselves a sort of aristocracy of lunadom, immune from the follies (mostly phone follies, of course) of youth.

Now, re "Gremlin." This bird is so busy wielding his poison pen that I'm sure he never gets on the air. Bernard Shaw (or someone) once said, "Those who never make mistakes never make anything." "Gremlin" wouldn't be game to go on the air for fear he made some "blue" such as those he writes about in others. However, my main theme where this chap is concerned is not that I dislike his writings—many of them I heartily endorse—but his anonymity. That's not cricket—nor Ham Radio. We don't mind being criticised provided we know who's doing the criticising.

—R. H. ATKINSON (VK6WZ)

HARMONIC EMISSIONS

Wireless Branch, Treasury Gardens, Melbourne, C.2

Secretary, Vic. Div. W.I.A.,

The Victorian Amateur Advisory Committee is concerned at the number of harmonic emissions from Victorian Amateur stations which are being heard on the 14 and 28 Mc. bands in the metropolitan area, and it has been suggested that the Institute might be good enough to arrange announcement in appropriate terms during its weekly broadcast to all members through station VK3WI.

Such action would serve to remind Amateurs of their obligations regarding harmonic emissions and might do much to assist conditions for other licencees in neighbouring locations.

It would be greatly appreciated if you would arrange to take action as indicated and also perhaps to include a paragraph concerning this evil in the next issue of "Amateur Radio."

—L. PEARSON, Chairman,
Vic. Amateur Advisory Com.

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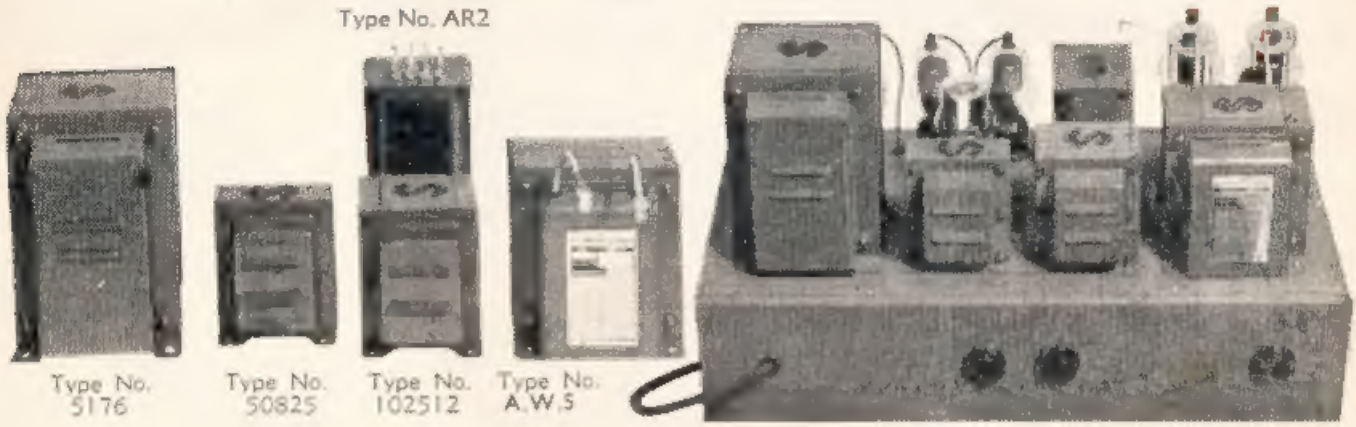

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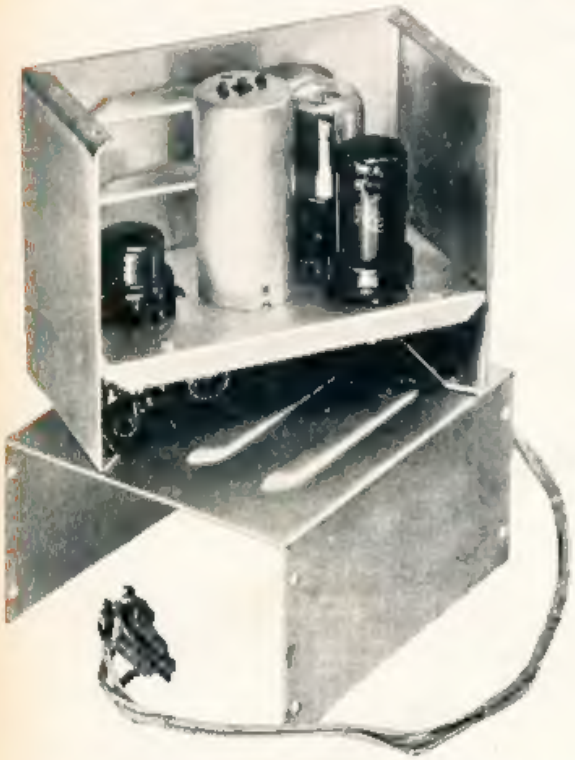

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